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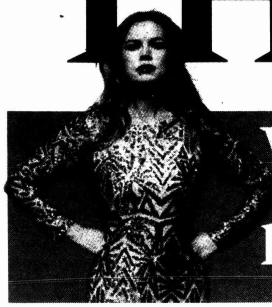
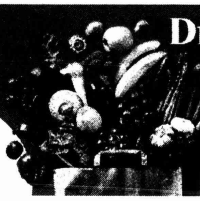


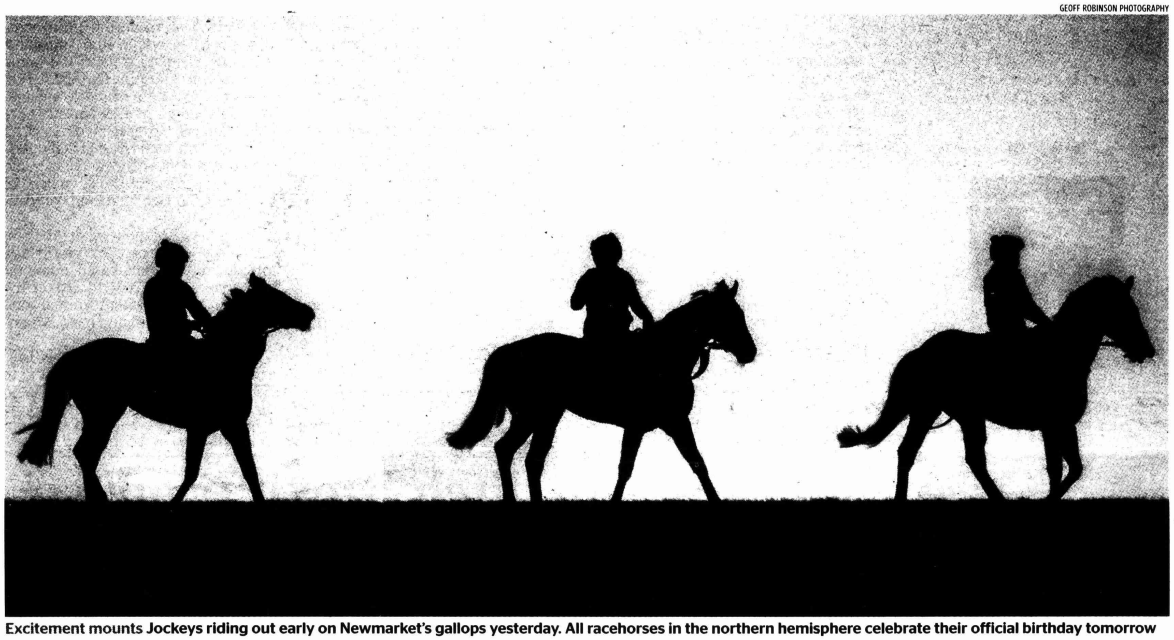
What to do and what not to do in 2020

INSIDE TIMES2



Dr Mark Porter Check your vitamins in Veganuary

GEOFF ROBINSON PHOTOGRAPHY



Excitement mounts Jockeys riding out early on Newmarket's gallops yesterday. All racehorses in the northern hemisphere celebrate their official birthday tomorrow

Tech bosses face court if they fail to protect users

Ministers set to regulate social media companies

Steven Swinford Deputy Political Editor

Social media executives will face fines and the threat of criminal prosecution for failing to protect people who use their services under plans to regulate tech giants in Britain for the first time.

The government is to publish next month its response to a consultation on policing social media companies such as Facebook and Google after Britain leaves the European Union.

Ministers want to place the companies under a statutory duty of care, which will be enforced by Ofcom, the broadcasting watchdog.

The government is also expected to introduce a "senior management liability", under which executives could be held personally responsible for breaches of standards. US tech giants would be required to appoint a British-based director, who would be accountable for any breaches of the duty of care in this country.

More draconian powers included in the original consultation, such as asking internet service providers to block websites or apps from being used in Britain, are likely to be dropped.

A levy on technology companies is being considered to help to fund the extra staffing and the cost of new regulation. The government wants to ensure that any penalties imposed on technology companies are "proportionate" so that smaller social media developers are not hit by the same level of fines as giants such as Facebook and Google.

Under the plans, Ofcom will draw up legally enforceable codes of practice that spell out what tech companies need to do to protect users from harmful content. They will cover terrorism, child abuse, illegal drug or weapon sales, cyberbullying, self-harm, harassment, disinformation, violence and pornography. Fines for those that breach the codes could be linked to annual turnover or the volume of illegal material online.

Theresa May's government held a consultation in the summer on proposals to regulate social media companies. Her weak political position and the lack of parliamentary time because of Brexit meant that legislation was never drawn up.

Boris Johnson put forward new duty-of-care laws in the Conservative manifesto. "We will legislate to make the UK the safest place in the world to be online — protecting children from online abuse and harms, protecting the most vulnerable from accessing harmful content, and ensuring there is no safe space for terrorists to hide online," the document said.

In the Queen's Speech this month the government pledged to "develop"

Continued on page 2, col 5

State heads back extra cash for poor white pupils

Dominic Kennedy, Nicola Woolcock

State-school head teachers backed a donor yesterday whose £1.2 million scholarship scheme for poor white boys was rejected by elite schools amid fear of racial discrimination.

Heads from ethnically diverse schools welcomed the spotlight thrown by the educationalist Professor Sir Bryan Thwaites, 96, on the low academic performance of white boys.

Sir Bryan offered to leave the money in his will so that children could follow in his footsteps with scholarships to Dulwich College and Winchester. The schools rejected the money in the light of anti-discrimination laws. He is now talking to state schools in hard-up areas, which have been more positive about accepting his help.

The rejection of the money, highlighted by *The Times* yesterday, has prompted fresh debate about the educational failure blighting the lives of white men in Britain.

Ethnic difference in education has been most prominently tackled by rappers. Stormzy, 26, has offered to pay tuition fees and living costs for four black students at Cambridge. Professor Green, 36, a musician who grew up on a council estate and left school without qualifications, said that working-class white boys needed help.

Leon Wilson, who began his teaching career in Jamaica and is seen as an ethnic minority role model as executive principal of the Hurlingham Academy and Lambeth Academy in London, noted that some institutions accepted targeted bequests to improve diversity. The money can pay for extra lessons or equipment, such as musical instruments, for gifted pupils.

"You have lots of philanthropists who give away money for different ethnic groups such as black Caribbean boys," Mr Wilson said. "I can't see why it should be a problem for white boys.

"It is clear for everybody to see that white working-class boys are not doing well in every index: exclusion, attainment, they are lagging behind. We need to unpick why they are not aspirational, what is going on?"

He warned against singling out white boys if it meant that other groups were

Continued on page 5, col 1

IN THE NEWS

London honour

President Macron wants to bestow the Légion d'honneur, France's highest honour, upon London for its wartime role serving as a base for General Charles de Gaulle. **Page 3**

Raab's trial doubts

Dominic Raab, the foreign secretary, said he was seriously concerned that a Briton, 19, found guilty of lying about being gang-raped on Cyprus did not have a fair trial. **Page 5**

Labour infighting

Allies of Angela Rayner have advised her not to back Rebecca Long Bailey for the Labour leadership to avoid being dragged into "hard-left warfare". **Page 8**

Turkey war threat

Turkey is fast-tracking a bill to send troops to Libya to prop up the Tripoli government, pitching it against Russia and threatening a full-blown proxy war in the Middle East. **Page 26**

Equitable closure

Equitable Life, the world's oldest member-owned insurance group, will dissolve at midnight, with its 176,000 policyholders transferring to a new company. **Page 33**

Offside law review

Discussions are taking place at Fifa about changing the laws of football so that a player is offside only if there is "clear daylight" between them and the defending player. **Page 60**

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DAILY NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

TODAY'S EDITION

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SNAPSHOT OF THE YEAR
Times photographers have captured 12 months of turmoil, in politics and on the streets
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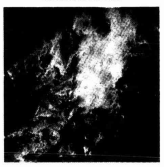

THOUSANDS FLEE BLAZES
Flames reached the suburbs of Melbourne as high winds fanned huge bushfires
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David Moyes made a promise to West Ham fans as he returned as manager
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PARTY LIKE IT'S 2020
The old and the new are on Will Hodgkinson's playlist for New Year's Eve
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COMMENT

With most young people now getting their news from social media, journalism faces a new crisis

JAMES MARRIOTT, PAGE 23

'Secret' meeting on patient data

NHS bosses have been criticised for holding a closed meeting with technology and pharmaceutical giants to consider how billions of pounds could be made from a central database of patient records. **Page 4**

Boris Yeltsin fears revealed

Declassified papers have revealed how No 10 was so worried about the Russian leader Boris Yeltsin's drinking that they drew up extensive contingency plans in case he should die suddenly. **Pages 12-13**

I want a normal life, says Greta

Greta Thunberg, the climate change activist who challenged world leaders and was named *Time* magazine's person of the year, has said she is looking forward to going back to school and being a "normal teenager". **Page 15**

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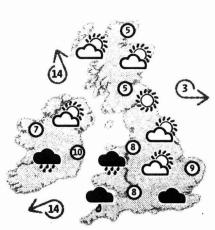
THE WEATHER



Drizzle, mist and fog patches in the southwest. Largely dry and bright elsewhere. **Full forecast, page 48**

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Points-based system could lead to steep rise in migrants

Steven Swinford Deputy Political Editor

The number of migrants could rise sharply under Boris Johnson's plans for an Australian points-based system unless he imposes a cap on the number of skilled workers allowed to come to the UK, campaigners have warned.

The prime minister used the Queen's Speech to commit the government to bringing forward laws for a points-based migration system after the end of the Brexit transition period in December next year.

The system would rate people who want to move to the UK according to their skills, experience, qualifications, ability to speak English and whether they were willing to work in areas where there are shortages of labour.

However, the campaign group Migration Watch UK said that failing to implement a cap on skilled migrants could lead to a surge in the number coming to the UK. It also said that the government should retain the £30,000 minimum salary threshold and minimum education standards for migrants.

In the election campaign Mr Johnson pledged to cut the number coming to the UK during this parliament. However, he has scrapped the pledge to cut net migration to tens of thousands.

Alp Mehmet, the chairman of Migration Watch UK, said: "The electorate, including those who don't usually vote Conservative, will expect Boris Johnson to keep his word on reducing immigration but an Australian points-based system is not in itself the magic wand that will do it.

"The wand has to be waved in a way suited to UK needs if immigration numbers are not to spin out of control again. Should they fail to deliver yet again, the Conservatives' credibility will be shot with the public and it won't be just to their new supporters that they could be saying goodbye."

During the election campaign Mr Johnson announced that if the Conservatives won, migrants would be issued with one of three visas.

He said that those with "exceptional talents" such as "violinists, nuclear physicists, prima ballerinas" would be allowed to come to the UK "simply because of what they contribute".

Skilled workers, including NHS staff, could come if they had a job lined up. Both groups would be allowed to settle.

A third group of unskilled workers would be granted short-term visas in sectors where there were shortages but would not be able to stay for good.

The Migration Advisory Committee would be given power to set the number of visas needed in key sectors, enjoying the same independence as the Bank of England has in setting interest rates.

Under the present migration policy skilled migrants from outside the EU coming to the UK must earn at least £30,000. There is also a 20,700 cap on the number allowed to come here, although exemptions mean that significantly more come to the UK.

Theresa May, the former prime minister, faced a revolt from ministers including Sajid Javid, then the home secretary, after pushing for the £30,000 minimum salary threshold to apply to skilled EU migrants after Brexit. There have been calls for it to be reduced.

Migration Watch UK said that unless the government retained the cap and minimum salary threshold, millions of workers could face increased competition for their jobs.

A Home Office spokesman said: "We will deliver on the people's priorities by introducing a points-based immigration system from 2021 to attract the brightest and best talent from around the world while bringing overall numbers down.

"As we end free movement, this firmer and fairer new system will allow us to decide who comes to this country on the basis of the skills they have and the contribution they can make — not where they come from."

'Johnson will ditch Brexit promise'

Henry Zeffman Political Correspondent

Boris Johnson will abandon his pledge not to extend the post-Brexit transition period beyond the end of next year, the EU's new trade commissioner has said.

In an interview Phil Hogan pointed to how the prime minister had broken his promise to take the UK out of the EU on October 31.

Mr Hogan told *The Irish Times*: "We saw the way the prime minister promised to die in the ditch rather than extend the deadline for Brexit, only for him to do just that.

"I don't believe prime minister Johnson will die in the ditch over the timeline for the future relationship either."

Mr Johnson this month introduced a clause in legislation ruling out an extension of the transition period beyond December 31 next year. Mr Hogan said it was "very odd indeed", adding: "From our point of view it is important we move from stunt to substance. It would be helpful if the focus was on content rather than timetables."

Ursula von der Leyen, who succeeded Jean-Claude Juncker as president of the European Commission this month, said she had "serious concern" over the idea that Brussels could negotiate a trade deal with the UK within Mr Johnson's 11-month timeframe. Mrs Von der Leyen told the French newspaper *Les Echos*: "It seems to me that on both sides we must ask ourselves seriously if all these negotiations are feasible in such a short time."

Mr Johnson insists that the transition period, which generally keeps arrangements as they are under the UK's membership, will be long enough.

The National Farmers' Union is insisting that food imports such as chlorinated chicken and beef from cattle fed with hormones must not be allowed after Brexit. Minette Batters, the union's president, said Britain had some of the highest standards of food safety in the world. "We cannot risk betraying these values," she said.

Businesses warn over boost to living wage

The 51p increase in the national living wage will pile further pressure on businesses, the British Chambers of Commerce has warned.

The increase, from £8.21 to £8.72 an hour, will come into effect in April. It is the largest increase since the rate was introduced in April 2016, when it rose from £6.70 to £7.20 per hour.

The national living wage is the mandatory minimum wage payable to adults over the age of 25. Workers under 25 and apprentices are paid at a lower rate.

Younger workers who receive the minimum wage will have their pay boosted by between 4.6 per cent and 6.5 per cent, depending on their age, with 21 to 24-year-olds receiving a 50p increase from £7.70 to £8.20 an hour.

Boris Johnson has praised the "biggest ever" increase in the national living wage.

However, Hannah Essex, co-executive director at the British Chambers of Commerce, said that the above-inflation rise came at a hard time. "Businesses... support the drive to improve living standards," she said. "But many have struggled with increased costs in a time of great economic uncertainty.

"Raising wage floors by more than double the rate of inflation will pile further pressure on cashflow and eat into training and investment budgets. For this policy to be sustainable, government must offset these costs by reducing others and impose a moratorium on any further upfront costs for business."

Sajid Javid, the chancellor, who announced the rise in September, said: "We want to do more to level up and tackle the cost of living, which is why the national living wage will increase further to £10.50 by 2024 on current forecasts."

The government said that almost three million workers were likely to benefit. The new rate starts on April 1 and will result in an increase of £930 over the year for a full-time worker on the national living wage.

Frances O'Grady, general secretary of the TUC, called for more. "Working families need a £10 minimum wage now, not in four years' time," she said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tech regulation

legislation in response to the consultation, to which there were more than 2,000 submissions. Voluntary codes of practice will be published before the legislation in an attempt to curb the use of the internet by terrorists and paedophiles. "This will ensure companies take action now to tackle content that threatens our national security and the physical safety of children," ministers said.

When the consultation on regulating social media companies was published in the summer there were concerns that it could lead to regulation of the press by the back door. The Tories then made a manifesto commitment to "defending freedom of expression and in particular recognising and defending the invaluable role of the free press".

Nicky Morgan, who stood down as an MP at the election, was reappointed as culture secretary after being given a peerage by the prime minister. She has backed the principle of a duty of care and said at the Tory conference that she would support a regulatory regime like that imposed on the financial sector.

The government has acknowledged that regulating large companies based abroad will be challenging. It said in the consultation: "It is vital that the regulator takes an international approach."

French can't resist a medal for London

Macron wants to honour the city's help in the war, but critics say Napoleon would be turning in his grave, writes **Adam Sage**

The tumultuous history of Franco-British relations is set to take an unexpected twist after reports that President Macron wants to bestow France's highest honour, the Légion d'honneur, on London.

Mr Macron is said to regard the distinction as a way of commemorating the city's role during the Second World War, when it provided a base for Charles de Gaulle, the exiled French leader.

Le Figaro said that Mr Macron was planning to announce the award on June 18, the 80th anniversary of the speech in which General de Gaulle called upon the French to resist the Nazi invasion of their country. The Appeal of 18 June, regarded as the founding act of the Resistance, was broadcast on the BBC and reproduced in English the next day in *The Times*.

Mr Macron's move could prove controversial, judging by *Le Figaro*'s website where users were indignant at the suggestion that he wanted to honour what one called "our hereditary enemies".

Many said that the Légion d'Honneur had been created by Napoleon in 1802 in between a succession of conflicts with Britain. "Napoleon Bonaparte must be turning in his grave," one said. "He who created this medal and who was exiled to Saint Helena by the ... English."

However, Éric Bocquet, the chairman of the French senate's Franco-British friendship committee, said it would be a "way of holding out a hand to the UK after Brexit". He added: "It could be a way of showing that the UK is still part of Europe and that relations between Britain and France and between Britain and Europe are going to remain strong. The English Channel is still just 21 miles wide and that isn't going to change."

A French official said that the award was not uncommon and had been made to Algiers in 2004 and to Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, in 2006. Both cities were honoured for being Resistance bases during the Second World War.

"It wouldn't be illogical to honour London in the same way," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

De Gaulle, who was then a junior minister and brigadier-general, escaped to London in June 1940 as the French government prepared to sign an armistice with the Nazis after the German invasion.

He was a lone figure at the time, accompanied by only his aide-de-camp. Some members of the British cabinet wanted nothing to do with him, but they were overruled by Winston Churchill, who gave him a platform from which to launch the Resistance.

The speech was heard by few French people at the time, but the message filtered through and served as a rallying call for all those who refused to accept capitulation to Hitler. History has come to regard the appeal as having saved the nation's honour and its place in the postwar world.

In addition to guerrilla warfare activities, the Resistance published underground newspapers, provided intelligence information and maintained escape networks that helped Allied troops trapped behind enemy lines.

Relations between Churchill and de Gaulle were never easy, however. Churchill acknowledged de Gaulle's stature but saw him as discourteous and lacking trustworthiness.

For his part, de Gaulle, whose relationship with Franklin D Roosevelt, the US president, was even worse, had scant respect for the British. In 1943 he transferred the headquarters of the Resistance to Algiers without thanking Churchill for having hosted him.

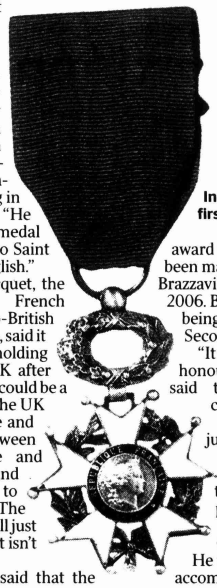
Churchill said that de Gaulle was "rude to the British to prove to French eyes that he was not a British puppet". He added: "He certainly carried out this policy with perseverance."

Mr Macron is keen to highlight de Gaulle's role in the foundation of modern France next year, which will be the 130th anniversary of his birth and the 50th anniversary of his death.

The Élysée Palace declined to comment on the reports.

ALAMY

In London in July 1940, within weeks of his appeal on the BBC and in The Times, General de Gaulle inspected the first Resistance volunteers. He later transferred the HQ to Algiers, which was given the Légion d'honneur in 2004



Legion of cities honoured by France

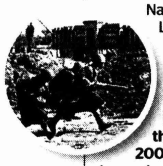
Non-French cities that have received the Légion d'honneur:

Liège, Belgium, 1914 For resisting Germany at the start of the First World War.

Belgrade, Serbia, 1920 For the courage of its population during the First World War.

Luxembourg, 1957 For its faithfulness to France during the First World War and its resistance during the Second World War.

Volgograd, Russia, 1984, right For its courage during the battle for the city, then called Stalingrad, in the Second World War.



Algiers, Algeria, 2004 For having been the base for Charles de Gaulle's French Committee of National Liberation during the years 1943-44.

Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, 2006 For becoming the official capital of Free France in 1940 when it was a French colony.

Jet ski threat to dolphins and seals

Ben Webster Environment Editor

Jet skiers are threatening dolphins, seals and seabirds by getting too close and disrupting their feeding and breeding, a conservation group has said.

The Wildlife Trusts said water sports enthusiasts were ignoring signs and often deliberately going close to marine wildlife to get a good view.

The group, made up of 46 local trusts that look after 2,300 nature reserves, received hundreds of reports this year of people disturbing wildlife around the coast.

Two jet skiers circled a pod of dolphins for 15 minutes off Falmouth in Cornwall in February, revving their engines and only leaving after a harbour commissioners' patrol vessel arrived.

Jet skiers disturbed seals at Gibraltar Point nature reserve in Lincolnshire twice in June. Kevin Wilson, nature reserve warden at Gibraltar Point, said that footage of the incidents had caused outrage when shared on social media. It was particularly important that the common seal colony was not disturbed while females were giving birth, he said. Essex Wildlife Trust blamed jet skis and motorboats for the absence of any little terns fledging this year at three nature reserves. It said that water sports enthusiasts had ignored signs and gone too close to nesting sites on beaches.

A bottlenose dolphin was circled near Swanage in Dorset after official advice was ignored.

Joan Edwards, the Wildlife Trusts' director of living seas, said many people did not realise how vulnerable animals such as dolphins and seals were to human activity. "We share the seas with nature and need to leave space for marine wildlife. It's important that people keep a good distance from animals and seabirds and avoid kayaking, jet skiing or boating near to animals, and avoid mothers and their young," she said.

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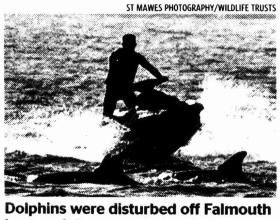


Dolphins were disturbed off Falmouth in one of the many incidents this year

Is that 999? I've got too many saveloy and chips

John Simpson Crime Correspondent

A woman who called 999 to complain that she received three saveloy and chips instead of the one she had ordered was among more than 22,000 nuisance calls to Scotland Yard this year.

A recording of her call was released yesterday in an attempt to stop the time-wasters. "I only ordered one saveloy and chips. They've sent me three saveloy and chips," she could be heard saying in an irritated voice.

The Metropolitan Police said call handlers had identified 22,491 nuisance 999 calls to the force from January 1 to November 30. There were also 2,912 hoax calls to the 101 non-emergency police number. One man complained about an out-of-date packet of biscuits.

"Not only did these calls waste police time and resources, they also potentially put Londoners at risk in what could be a life-or-death situation," the Met said in a statement.

Chief Superintendent David Jackson, who is in charge of call handling for the Met, said: "Although these calls can be perceived as amusing, they are actually a huge waste of the Met's resources. These hoax calls block the number from members of the public who could be calling 999 in a real emergency, keeping people in danger for longer and putting lives at risk."

News

SIENNA ANDERSON/SOUL PHOTOGRAPHY/PICTURE EXCLUSIVE

Misty morning Early risers were greeted by fog on Brading Down, Isle of Wight. Today will be damp in the southwest but largely dry and mild elsewhere. Forecast, page 48

Alarm at 'secret' NHS meeting with tech firms on sharing patient data

Mark Bridge, Philip Aldrick

NHS chiefs held a closed meeting with giant technology and pharmaceutical companies to consider how billions of pounds could be made from a central database of patient records.

The scheme better to harness anonymised medical data would address concerns that the health service had given away intellectual property rights too cheaply in existing deals with companies such as Google's DeepMind.

Local NHS IT officers have criticised the service's leaders for discussing it "behind closed doors", saying that a lack of transparency could erode public trust. The NHS denies acting secretively.

At the meeting in London in October, officials including the chairman and the chief executive of NHS England, Lord Prior of Brampton and Sir Simon Stevens, met representatives of companies including Microsoft, Amazon Web Services and Astrazeneca. NHS data is of great interest and monetary value to US and global companies because of the service's universal coverage.

According to The Register, a technology website, the meeting discussed the creation of a repository that could be available within two years, bringing together data about all patients in England sourced from GPs, NHS trusts and directly from medical devices — capturing the "full journey of care from cradle to grave".

By replacing fragmented data repositories with one comprehensive, centralised resource, the intention would be to enable more "effective, efficient and safe patient care". It could also provide companies and researchers with real-time access to anonymised medical and genetic records, in return for cash or other benefits.

Analysis of the data using artificial intelligence from tech giants could enable earlier diagnoses, the development of new drugs and tracking of wider trends in public health.

A study this year by the consultant EY found that NHS data could be "worth £9.6 billion a year through operational savings, improved patient outcomes and economic benefits". That breaks down as £5 billion of benefits to the NHS and £4.6 billion to patients. NHS England disputes the estimates.

At the London meeting the NHS told more than 30 invited guests about nine potential models for how the increased exploitation of patient data could be funded. These included arrangements whereby the NHS would charge fees to companies and researchers for accessing data, or would waive fees in return for services such as storage and analysis of data. In other models the NHS would freely provide data in return for a share in any intellectual property derived from it or an equity stake in the company involved.

Concerns have been raised about transparency. James Reed, a consultant forensic psychiatrist and chairman of the Clinical Chief Information Officer Network, which represents clinicians responsible for IT programmes, told The Register: "There are clear benefits to be had from sharing clinical data between organisations, both for direct care and for understanding population health. However, we have learnt from similar initiatives of the past that it's very important to be open and transparent about it with the public."

He said it was vital that the public realised who had access to their data and the purposes for its use.

NHS trusts have already entered commercial agreements with technology companies, such as DeepMind, the British artificial intelligence company owned by Google's parent company Alphabet. A number of existing deals give the companies access to anonymised patient data and intellectual property arising from it in return for the creation of algorithms or provision of services. These include a deal with the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust using patient data to develop an app that helps doctors to identify and monitor acute kidney disease.

The proposal for a centralised database has been likened to Care.Data, a data-sharing initiative with private companies that was abandoned in 2016 because of confidentiality concerns.

A health service spokesman said: "The NHS takes data security extremely seriously and puts appropriate safeguards in place to ensure information is used correctly. We are working with the Department of Health and Social Care to use the information we hold, securely, to deliver benefits to the NHS, our patients and the public."

Analysis

There is enormous value to be had from NHS patient records, both in improved health and by creating a life science industry that uses data to develop new cures (Philip Aldrick writes).

No country has such a large cradle-to-grave single provider healthcare system as the UK. If data is curated well, artificial intelligence can be used to defeat disease. EY estimates that the annual benefit to the UK could be £10 billion in both better patient outcomes and stronger economic growth. But it will not be easy. First, personal medical records must be handled extremely sensitively. Second, the benefits will only be realised by investing in systems that are useable by algorithms.

Healthcare experts estimate that a fully traceable database may cost £5 billion. The government lacks the funds and expertise to deliver this, which is why it is talking to tech giants.

The Amazons and Microsofts have deep pockets and the skills. They are in the early stages of discussing commercial terms with the NHS. Vitally, this process must be transparent. In 2016, a similar programme, Care.Data, was ditched over concerns that patient records would be sold to insurers.

The government has since published a commercial partnership framework for data sharing. One firm, Sensyne Health, has even given the NHS a tenth of its equity in return for data access. It's a start, but leaked stories about secret meetings with US tech companies do the government no favours — it must be an honest advocate.

Quintagram® No 573

Solve all five clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Snug (4)

_ _ _ _

2 Render inoperative (5)

_ _ _ _ _

3 Wheeled conveyance (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

4 Cutting tool (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 In a lightly provocative manner (9)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	B	C	C	E	E	E
E	G	I	I	K	L	L	L
L	N	O	O	P	P	R	R
R	S	S	T	T	Y	Y	Y

Solutions MindGames in Times2
Cryptic clues every day online

Rutles star Innes dies

Neil Innes, a comedian and musician who collaborated with Monty Python and starred in the spoof group the Rutles, has died at the age of 75. He was also a member of the Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band, whose song *I'm The Urban Spaceman* won him an Ivor Novello award. His agent, Nigel Morton, said that Innes had died unexpectedly and had not been ill. A statement by his family said "we have lost a beautiful, kind, gentle soul".
Obituary, page 45

Thief makes a meal of it

Police in Hull are looking for a thief who apparently swallowed a pair of diamond earrings as a way of stealing them from a shop. The man, whose £13,000 haul included rings that he put on his fingers, had walked into the jeweller's in St Stephen's Shopping Centre shortly before closing time. The police say that he spoke with a southern accent.

Taunt to Packham

The wildlife TV presenter Chris Packham, a prominent anti-foxhunting campaigner, said that a dead fox was left outside his house in Hampshire yesterday, apparently with an injury from being caught in a snare. He said that he would be contacting the police. In April two dead crows were left on his gate.

Picasso attack charge

A man has appeared in court accused of ripping Picasso's *Bust of a Woman* at Tate Modern in London on Saturday. The 1944 painting is valued at £20 million. Shakeel Massey, 20, of Willesden Green, north London, pleaded not guilty and was remanded in custody by Camberwell Green magistrates to appear at crown court on January 30.

Antiques gross show

A BBC *Antiques Roadshow* expert took a sip of what he believed was a 150-year-old bottle of port that was actually full of urine, rusty nails and a human hair. Andy McConnell tasted the contents in 2016 for a show in Trelissick, Cornwall, he revealed in the latest episode. There was also a cockle inside, which suggested that it was a witch's bottle.

Army recruits died days apart of same genetic disorder

David Brown

Two British army recruits from Africa who died after training runs within ten days of each other last month had the same undiagnosed genetic condition.

The Ministry of Defence has been asked to consider urgent tests of all foreign recruits for sickle cell trait after a coroner was told that three other men had needed treatment after collapsing during training.

Kamil Iddrisu, 25, from Ghana, and Youngson Nkhoma, 30, from Malawi, collapsed during exercises at Whittington Barracks near Lichfield, Staffordshire. They died in hospital having suffered acute kidney injury, acidic blood and severe muscle damage.

A pathologist concluded that the most likely cause of the deaths was the sickle cell trait, which is common in people with an African or Caribbean family background, in combination with the military exercise.

Louise Hunt, the senior coroner for Birmingham and Solihull, has written to the Ministry of Defence and Capita, which is responsible for army recruitment, saying "urgent action should be taken to prevent future deaths", adding: "If a person has a sickle cell trait they are at significant increased risk of death/collapse during military exercise."

She said the military should consider screening overseas recruits for sickle cell trait before starting the selection process and give those who have completed the process an urgent blood test.

Although the cause of death of the two recruits is still being investigated Ms Hunt is concerned that "there is a group of non-UK candidates who are at serious risk of death or harm if further steps are not taken immediately".

The NHS website says that people with sickle cell trait carry the gene which causes the disease but do not have the disease themselves. They are at risk of having a child with sickle cell if their partner is also a carrier.

Sickle cell disease affects red blood cells and can cause agonising episodes, an increased risk of serious infections and anaemia. John James, chief executive of the Sickle Cell Society, said that carriers of the disease gene were now identified in the UK during pregnancy or after birth. He said it was known that the trait could cause problems during extreme exercise. "We welcome the recommendation that those who have not been tested should be checked before doing strenuous activities such as military exercises," he said.

The US Air Force said there had been three such deaths in six months.

An army spokesman said: "As an investigation is ongoing it would be inappropriate to comment further."

Raab to pursue case of Briton found guilty of gang-rape lies

Hannah Lucinda Smith Istanbul

Dominic Raab has said he is seriously concerned that a British teenager found guilty of lying about being gang-raped on Cyprus has not received a fair trial. The foreign secretary said he would be raising the "deeply distressing case" with the Cypriot authorities.

The woman, 19, who has not been named, claimed that she had been sexually abused by 12 Israeli men and boys in a hotel in the resort of Ayia Napa on July 17.

She withdrew her allegation under what she claims was duress and the Israelis flew home. They were greeted by friends and family and were filmed opening champagne and chanting "The Brit is a whore".

The woman, 18 at the time of the incident, was arrested and charged on July 28. Her lawyer has said that she remains determined to get justice.

The Foreign Office said Britain was seriously concerned about the fair trial guarantees in the case. Prosecutors accused her of making up the allegations when she became angry about being filmed having consensual sex with one of the men. She spent four weeks in jail and has been unable to leave Cyprus.

The trial, which has prompted debate over the handling of allegations of sexual assault on the island, ended yesterday with the woman being found guilty of "public mischief", a crime that can be punished by a year in prison and a £1,500 fine. Sentencing is due on January 7 and her legal team is seeking a suspended sentence.

The woman left court in a mask with stitches on the lips in protest. She said she was "dedicated to seeking true justice" and vowed to clear her name and those of others who had been through similar experiences, many of whom she said had been in contact with her.

"There was, sadly, no surprise at the judgment," she told *The Sun*. "One moment I was a victim, the next I was the accused. Eight hours of interrogation, denied access to a lawyer — while those accused of raping me had legal representation immediately."

Michael Polak, a British lawyer on her defence team, said that "it felt like the decision was made before the trial started. The verdict relied on her retracted statement. When she made it, she had been held for seven hours without access to a lawyer. I don't think that anyone who attended would say that this was a fair trial."

Her mother said: "The fact she has PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] is not being taken into consideration by this judge. He is not thinking about my daughter at all. She needs to see someone back home in the UK who can treat her properly. It's just not right that she is still here and not at home receiving treatment."

Marios Matsakis, a forensic pathologist who was a witness for the defence, testified that the woman had injuries consistent with being raped and that he had detected the DNA of four people in the swabs taken from her.

The woman said she had been having consensual sex with one of the men before the others entered the room and held her down. A second doctor called by the prosecution said that the woman bore no signs of serious sexual assault.

None of the 12 men accused was called to give evidence. The judge in the Famagusta district court in Paralimni said the woman's guilt had "been proven beyond reasonable doubt".

The woman's legal team has vowed to take the case to the Supreme Court of Cyprus and to the European Court of Human Rights if necessary.

YIANNIS KOURTOGLOU/REUTERS; KATIA CHRISTODOULOU/EPA; PETROS KARADJIAS/AP

The teenager, above, was supported by a victims' group after she was convicted of lying about the attack. The accused Israelis celebrated on their release in July

State schools welcome donor's offer to help poor white boys

Continued from page 1

ignored, saying it was important to improve across the board: "There was a big push on black Caribbean boys five to ten years ago. That had real impact but at what cost?"

He noted there were underlying problems in some geographical areas. "It is a case of what is going on in certain communities. Normally in these communities where white boys are underachieving, BME [black and minority ethnic] students are also underachieving. I have white working-class students at my two schools who do extremely well." Of the scholarships, he said: "This will only work for a handful of boys ... It's good that it is being looked at generally."

Seaside towns were identified as a problem by Neil Roskilly, chief executive of the Independent Schools Association. "Private philanthropy, no matter how generous, would not even dent the national disgrace of disadvantaged white boys' under-achievement, particularly in coastal areas," he says in a letter to *The Times* today.

Desmond Deehan, head of Townley Grammar School in Bexleyheath, south London, where more than half of pupils are from black African families, said: "The schools that find it harder to make sufficient progress frequently have white working-class populations within them that are underachieving. I am really glad to see this as a topic."

Sir Dan Moynihan, chief executive of the Harris Federation which has 48 academies teaching 36,000 pupils mainly in disadvantaged parts of London, wrote to Sir Bryan: "We need to improve the progress made by low-income white students. The kind of scheme which you propose would make an enormous difference."

Trevor Phillips, former chairman of the Equality and Human Rights Commission and an architect of the Equality Act, who first raised the issue in the magazine *Standpoint*, said yesterday that there was a reluctance to help white boys for image reasons. "People have to stop getting their knickers in a twist every time race or racial difference is raised. The position we have now got ourselves into is ridiculous, where a law which is supposed to help people realise their potential is used essentially to deny somebody what is needed to make that happen. It's just crazy," he said.

Sir Bryan said it had been a tragic mistake for his former schools to refuse his gift. "If they were to say 'We are helping these deprived cohorts of children', that would do a hell of a lot for their reputation. The implication of their refusal is they couldn't give a damn."

The Department for Education said: "We are putting more money into our schools than ever before and the government has taken action to tackle disadvantage by providing schools with an extra £2.4 billion this year alone through the Pupil Premium."

Letters, page 24

Race row as £1m gift is snubbed by elite schools

The Times's front-page story yesterday on the rejection of Sir Bryan Thwaites's pledge of cash for bursaries

News

STEVEN MEISEL/BRITISH VOGUE

Cover star **Lupita Nyong'o, the Oscar-winning actress, talks about ambition and her feelings of isolation in the February issue of Vogue, out on Friday**

Cummings vetoes 'northern MIT' plan

Steven Swinford Deputy Political Editor

Dominic Cummings has overruled a cabinet minister by insisting that a super-college described as the "MIT for the North" will not go ahead.

Mr Cummings, the prime minister's senior adviser, has suggested that "very large amounts of cash" should instead be invested in Manchester University and other institutions in the north with a focus on maths and science.

It comes after Jake Berry, the Northern Powerhouse minister, floated plans for a scientific institution to boost the economy and to help to "level up" Britain. He told *The Sunday Times* that he wanted a world-leading institution that would "rival Oxford and Cambridge".

However, the *Manchester Evening News* disclosed that Mr Cummings was "sceptical" about the idea and had instructed civil servants to look into investing in existing universities.

The Northern Powerhouse — a plan to unlock northern England's potential — is set to receive a "large chunk" of the £10.5 billion UK shared prosperity fund for projects in former Labour "red wall" constituencies, starting from 2021.

Oxford professor wins ageism ruling

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

Oxford University acted unlawfully by dismissing a leading scientist because of his age, an employment tribunal has ruled.

Paul Ewart, who was forced to retire as head of atomic and laser physics at Oxford's Clarendon Laboratory at 69, had been subject to age discrimination and unfairly dismissed.

The university's policy of enforced retirement, which is supposed to foster diversity and "intergenerational fairness", had created only a "trivial" number of new opportunities for younger academics, the tribunal in Reading ruled. This did not justify a "heavy discriminatory effect" on older dons.

Professor Ewart, whose work could help combat climate change, argued that his research was "blossoming" when he was forced out under Oxford's employer justified retirement age (EJRA) scheme in September 2017.

In the two years before his retirement he published 15 scientific papers and was involved in efforts to create ultra-efficient combustion and jet engines. His work also promised to help to develop new hydrogen-based fuels.

A change in the law in 2011 ended default retirement ages in Britain but institutions can keep them if they can argue a case. Oxford has claimed that it must be able to remove professors aged over 67 to "refresh" its workforce and to promote equality and diversity. It allowed Professor Ewart a two-year extension but denied his request to further postpone retirement.

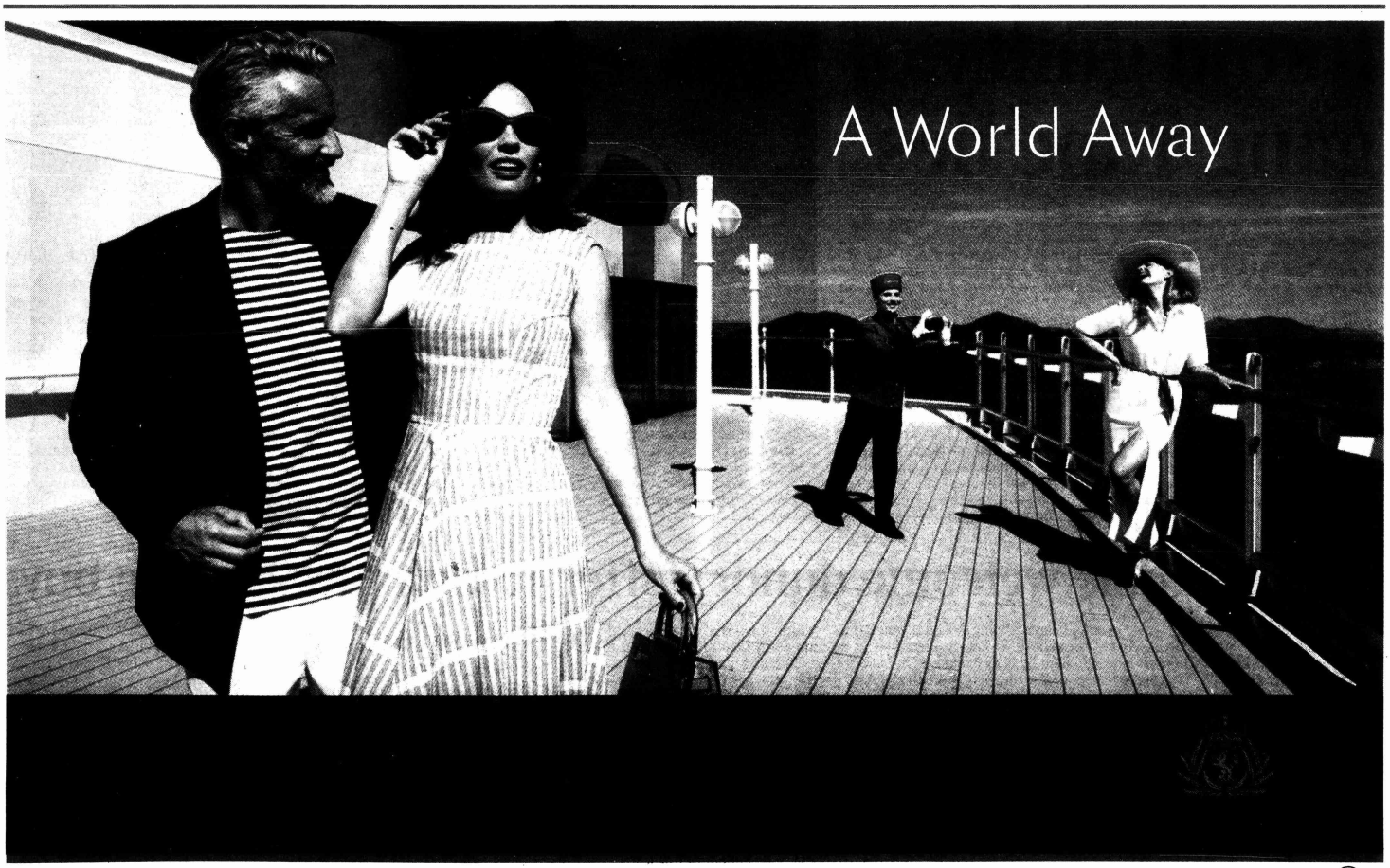
Professor Ewart, who is now 71, said Oxford was throwing away expertise. "Being forcefully deprived of the work which gives purpose and fulfilment has a detrimental effect on the quality of life for those affected," he said. "The policy also has serious deleterious consequences for important research being conducted by world-leading scientists."

During the tribunal he produced evidence to show that Oxford's EJRA scheme produced only about a 2-4 per cent increase in the number of opportunities for younger academics. Professor Ewart, who had worked at Oxford for 38 years, has asked for his job back.

Oxford said that it would be "considering its options", including an appeal. Compulsory retirement has been abandoned by every Russell Group university other than Oxford and Cambridge.

Two Oxford professors have previously lodged successful internal appeals against forced retirement. Denis Galligan, a law professor, fought against his retirement at the age of 67 in 2014. Peter Edwards, a professor of inorganic chemistry, was allowed in 2017 to keep his job at the age of 69.

This year the oldest winner of a Nobel prize criticised Oxford for making him retire at 65. John Goodenough, 97, won the chemistry prize for the invention of lithium-ion batteries. He works at the University of Texas at Austin.



ABTA travel with confidence

But it really is me, Sharon Stone tells dating app

Mark Bridge

When "Sharon Stone" matches you on a dating app and appears keen, it would not be unreasonable to assume that you're dealing with a scammer preying on your baser instincts.

But the actress, whose famous performance in *Basic Instinct* (1992) is considered one of the most memorable of the era, was infuriated when her profile on Bumble was mistakenly deleted as phoney. Stone, 61, wrote on Twitter: "I went on the Bumble dating [app] and they closed my account. Some users reported that it couldn't possibly be me! Don't shut me out of the hive."

Bumble, which requires women to initiate any contact by sending the first message, said that the account had been reinstated and Stone could verify it to ensure that she would not be blocked again. It added: "Looks like our users thought you were too good to be true."

The Basic Instinct actress asked Bumble to unblock her

Numerous Twitter users expressed surprise that Stone was single and put themselves forward as potential dates.

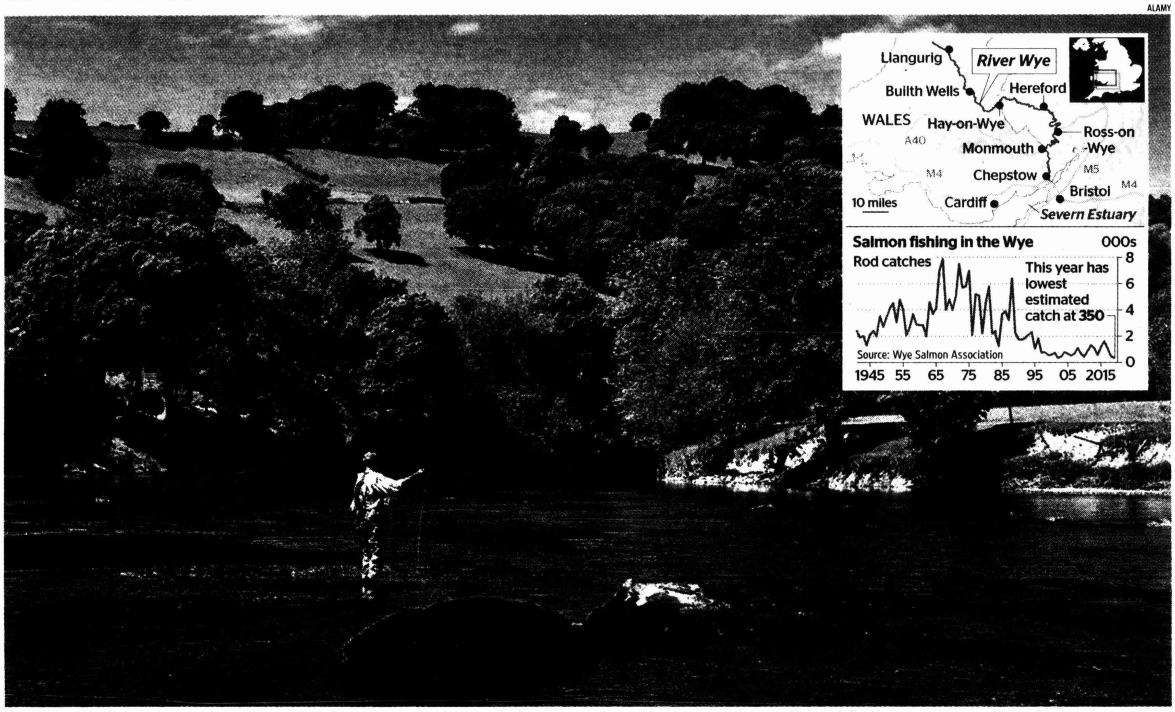
One post said: "If you're ever in Buffalo and kinda dig fat guys with moustaches my DMs are open. Also own a car so willing to drive (up to 25 miles) even if ya just close by." This Romeo had a rival in Britain, who wrote: "If you're ever in Leigh in Lancashire anytime and fancy a brew at Costa or a pasty from Waterfields then let us know."

An American pastor wrote: "It's a shame, I'm too old & too worn out, but I make a great cup of coffee, a mean margarita & cook a fantastic meal. If you're ever in the Seattle area you're most welcome to stop by. (No sermons, I'm retired.)"

Stone, whose other films include *Casino* and *Total Recall*, has been married twice and lives with her three sons in Hollywood. Last year she dated an Italian estate agent, Angelo Boffa, but after breaking up she said that she was "no longer hoping for someone".

In 2015 Stone told an interviewer from *Harper's Bazaar* that she was never asked out. "It's so stupid. I don't know what to do. I've been getting more brazen with flirting, but I don't think men realise that I'm flirting. They just think 'Oh, she's fun'."

ALAMY



The River Wye has been a magnet for anglers for many years, but predation, water abstraction, poor water quality and fishing at sea have affected salmon numbers

Fishing paradise dries up as salmon are driven to the verge of extinction

Jack Malvern

During the golden era of salmon fishing on the River Wye one man was able to catch 10,000 fish during the course of his career while sharply dressed in a three-piece suit and tie.

Robert Pashley, right, who fished the river between 1906 and 1951, caught up to 678 of the fish in a single year and became a renowned figure, but his feat would be impossible today.

Catches fell to an estimated 350 in 2019, the lowest figure since records began in 1941. Declining water quality and the removal of water from the river are blamed for diminishing salmon numbers.

The disastrous figure is part of a pattern throughout England and Wales, where salmon numbers fell sharply in 2018 in eight out of 11 monitored rivers.

One owner of a fishery on the Wye, which runs from Plynlimon in mid-Wales to the Severn estuary, warned that salmon could become extinct in the river unless action was taken to replenish the breeding population.

Graham Paskett, of the Wye Salmon Fishery Owners Association (WSFOA), said the figure for salmon rod catches represented the bottom of a 20-year decline. "The reality is that up until the 1970s the Wye was England's premier salmon river," he said. "Today we face the real prospect of their virtual extinction as the number of salmon in the river do not enable it to self-sustain as a viable breeding population.

"The reasons are manifold but primarily they are poor water quality, predation by fish-eating birds and water abstraction, all factors that are compounded by commercial fishing at sea."

The high point for rod catches since the Second World War was in 1967, with 7,864. Since the 1990s the figure has never been higher than 2,338 and fell to 506 in 2018.

A government report on salmon stocks published in March recorded sharp declines in catches in rivers across the country, including the Tamar in southwest England where stocks of adult salmon fell from 4,424 to 2,603.

Mr Paskett said the WSFOA had been banned from restocking the river by Natural Resources Wales, the quango that has managed the Wye since 2013.

"In 2015 they insisted that the juvenile salmon stocking programme run by the Wye Salmon Association, at no cost to the taxpayer, was closed down," he said. "It is a fact that since then, salmon numbers in the river have plummeted.

"We believe that we have to do something positive to halt the decline and prevent salmon from becoming virtually extinct as a self-sustaining population within the river.

"A key element of this is for Natural Resources Wales to lift the ban on hatcheries and juvenile salmon stocking so that we can continue our programme of restocking using Wye broodstock." He cited David Hudson, environment manager for the Environment Agency, as saying that "doing nothing is not an option".

Mr Paskett said that Natural Resources Wales wished to prevent restocking with the wrong strain of salmon, but that the concern was unfounded. "We only restock with fish born from those caught in the Wye," he said.

A spokesman for the agency said: "There is a significant body of evidence that stocking is unsuccessful as a strategy, and hatcheries are damaging. A comprehensive review of scientific research from the UK and abroad found that hatchery-reared young salmon have a much lower survival rate than young wild fish, and can harm existing wild salmon populations."

Ceri Davies, its executive director of evidence and policy, said it was better to concentrate on improving water quality and removing barriers to migration.

Mr Paskett predicted that under the current system "salmon will become extinct as a viable breeding population within a decade".

Commuters spend 10% of average pay on rail fares

Andrew Ellson
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Commuters are spending an average of more than 10 per cent of their take-home pay on train fares.

Analysis of credit card data found that customers buying annual tickets spent £2,605 each year, rising to £3,780 with the most expensive train operators. The average after-tax income of full-time employees in the UK is £24,200, according to the Office for National Statistics, meaning that on average commuters are spending 10.8p of every post-tax pound they earn on getting to work.

Next week rail commuters face another increase in fares of almost 2.8 per cent. This will result in about £100 added to the cost of the average season ticket, and will mean fares have risen by almost 50 per cent in the past decade, twice the rate of wage growth.

Unions have warned ministers that commuters will be priced off the railways if season ticket prices continue rising at the current pace.

The research, by Sainsbury's Bank, found large regional variations in the amount commuters spend on their season tickets. Customers of South Western Railway paid the most at £3,780 each on average, followed by South Eastern at £3,662. Northern Rail users paid significantly less, spending an average of only £1,014.

Sainsbury's Bank said that a quarter of people who commute at least three times a week buy annual season train tickets. Monthly travel cards are the most popular type of ticket.

Jerome Fernandez, head of credit cards at the bank, said: "The cost of train travel is a significant hit on UK workers' take-home pay. However, tickets are not the only cost associated with commuting by train. Our research found commuters spend an average £17 every week on treats including hot drinks, breakfast and snacks."

The study came as the Rail Delivery Group, which represents Britain's rail companies, announced that the industry would introduce 1,000 extra carriages over the next year, taking the total to almost 16,000. Nine operators, including South Western Railway, Greater Anglia and Merseyrail, are introducing new and upgraded trains as part of an industry commitment to replace half of Britain's train fleet.

The new trains will provide customers with exact information about a train's location, reducing instances of trains predicted to be on time suddenly showing as delayed. The location of older trains is measured only when they pass signals, which can be up to five miles apart.

News

Don't back Long Bailey for leader, Rayner told

Henry Zeffman Political Correspondent

Allies of Angela Rayner have warned her not to endorse the leadership campaign of Rebecca Long Bailey, despite the pair being tipped to run on a joint ticket.

Ms Long Bailey and Ms Rayner, who are flatmates, are widely expected to run for Labour's leadership and deputy leadership respectively and had been expected to endorse each other. But Ms Rayner, the shadow education secretary, is being told that by championing Ms Long Bailey, the shadow business secretary, she would risk being dragged into the Corbynite battle over who should be the leftwinger to succeed him.

Neither Ms Rayner nor Ms Long Bailey has formally announced her intention to run but in setting out her pitch yesterday, Ms Long Bailey announced that she was supporting Ms Rayner to become deputy.

However, Ms Rayner is being urged by her allies not to reciprocate when she announces her own campaign. One source said: "It's clear what Rebecca gets out of Angela's support but not clear what Angela gets out of it. She'll walk deputy either way. But if she backs Rebecca she'll be dragged into the hard-left warfare."

Ms Long Bailey had appeared set to be anointed as the left's leadership candidate but Ian Lavery, the party chairman, is now also considering standing.

Yesterday Ms Long Bailey made her first serious intervention since Labour's dismal election result, saying that the party must champion "progressive patriotism". Writing in *The Guardian*, she said that Labour's second EU referendum policy had "satisfied too few" but insisted that Jeremy Corbyn's radical manifesto was popular. "We didn't lose because of our commitment to scrap universal credit, invest in public services or abolish tuition fees," Ms Long Bailey said.

Mr Lavery, former president of the National Union of Mineworkers, looks set to vie with Ms Long Bailey for the Corbynite mantle. He has been one of Mr Corbyn's most pugnacious backers, and was the party's general election campaign co-ordinator.

A spokesman for Mr Lavery told the *Daily Mirror*: "Ian is optimistic about the challenges and knows there is a lot of work to be done to unify the party. He has had a tremendous amount of support and is seriously considering all of his options."

The left-wing succession is complicated further by Clive Lewis, one of only two MPs who have confirmed they will stand for the leadership. Mr Lewis, a shadow Treasury minister, is pitching for votes from activists who supported Mr Corbyn but were frustrated that he did not argue unequivocally for remaining in the EU.

The preferential voting system under which the leadership election takes place means the three left-wing candidates will not necessarily harm each other's chances. However, it could make it harder for them to make it on to the leadership ballot. Candidates require the support of 21 MPs plus backing from constituency parties or trade unions to secure a place in the election.

The three left-wing candidates will be grappling for votes with MPs including Emily Thornberry, who has also declared that she will run, as well as Sir Keir Starmer, Jess Phillips and Lisa Nandy, and possibly Yvette Cooper, David Lammy and Dan Jarvis.

Frances O'Grady, general secretary of the TUC, urged Labour to learn the "hard lessons" from its defeat. In a direct criticism of Mr Corbyn she told Sky News: "There are big issues to learn about leadership, where it is not enough to be popular in the party — you've got to be popular in the country, too. I think Jeremy Corbyn was a decent man. And he was very popular in the party. But that isn't enough."

Leading article, page 25

Q&A

Who is running?
Emily Thornberry, the shadow foreign secretary, and Clive Lewis, the shadow Treasury minister, have declared. Rebecca Long Bailey, the shadow business secretary, and Sir Keir Starmer, the shadow Brexit secretary, have all but declared. Jess Phillips and Lisa Nandy are also set to run, while Ian Lavery, Dan Jarvis, Yvette Cooper and David Lammy may stand.

Who are the leading candidates?
Ms Long Bailey will hope to reassemble a similar coalition of grassroots activists and trade union support to that which carried Jeremy Corbyn to victory in 2015. Sir Keir is hoping to dent that plan by saying Mr Corbyn's policies needed a more credible front man. Ms Phillips is expected to win significant backing from Labour's right.

Will Ms Long Bailey get a clear run from the left?
Some of the MPs who backed Mr Corbyn might back Mr Lewis. A bigger threat could come from Mr Lavery, the party chairman, who may get support from MPs, activists and trade unionists.

When will the election get under way?
Labour's national executive committee will set a timetable next week, with a result by the end of March.

Who can vote?
Party members, affiliated supporters from trade unions, socialist societies and registered supporters.

Rebecca Long Bailey, left, and Angela Rayner are set to run on a joint ticket

Profile

Ian Lavery, a militant former miners' leader, is haunted by the financial benefits he enjoyed from the union he once led (Dominic Kennedy writes).

He earned folk hero status during the 1984-85 strike as the only apprentice miner to refuse to cross the picket lines.

Born in Ashington, Northumberland, Mr Lavery became the area general secretary for the National Union of Mineworkers in 1992 and later succeeded Arthur Scargill as national president.

The local union's provident fund lent him £72,500 to buy a house but his endowment policy underperformed. The loan was written off, to his apparent benefit. The union bought 15 per cent of Mr Lavery's home but made a loss when he bought out the share after the house was deemed to have declined in value.

When he became MP for Wansbeck in 2010 he received £90,000 redundancy from the union. He later returned £15,000 to settle a disputed overpayment.

He was asked nine times by John Sweeney on *Newsnight* on BBC Two if he had paid off his mortgage but declined to reply. The trade union watchdog looked at the matter but did not appoint an inspector.

Mr Lavery said that should draw a line under years of innuendo: "Under my stewardship the union always complied with the rules and the certification officer signed off every year's transactions. No member, past or present, has made a complaint about the financial affairs of the union."

He became party chairman in 2017. A Brexiteer, he was sent out to rally working-class voters in Leave seats as Labour panicked about a loss of support in its heartlands.

It was too late. Labour lost four of its seven Co Durham seats to the Tories, and Mr Lavery's majority was slashed to 814 from 10,435.

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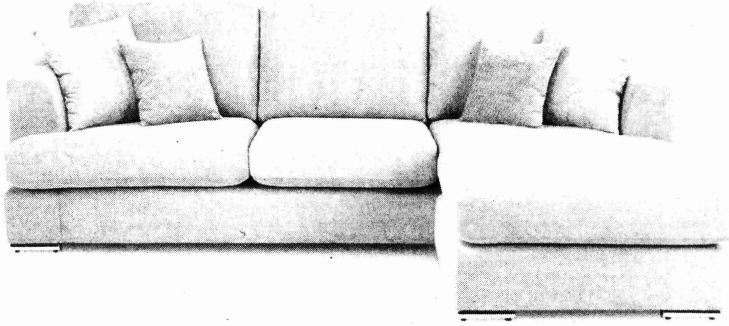

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Swedish queen joins Ikea chief to design 'dementia-friendly' homes

Oliver Moody Berlin

In the early 1990s Queen Silvia of Sweden watched Alzheimer's disease pull apart the threads of her mother's mind.

A quarter of a century later the experience has informed the design of a set of dementia-friendly prefabricated apartments that could soon be erected in Britain.

The queen, together with the founder of the Ikea furniture chain, drew up the plans for the first prototypes of low-cost modular flats to ensure that patients and their carers could continue to live in their own homes.

The six model apartments in Stockholm are a pilot for a concept that is intended to be spread across Scandinavia and into the UK over the next few years.

"In Sweden the number of people aged 80 or over will increase by 85 per cent from 2015 to 2030," Jonas Spangenberg, the chief executive of BoKlok, the building company that made them, said.

"Society needs to find a solution where more people can stay at home for longer; and actually people want to stay in their own home. This is also much cheaper for everybody."

The idea emerged several years ago when Ingvar Kamprad, the Ikea billionaire, made a large donation to Queen Silvia's dementia charity, the Silviahemmet foundation.

After some thought the pair decided to spend the money on designing affordable ready-built housing for older couples that could be easily adapted to their needs if one of them were to develop dementia.

They approached BoKlok, which has built about 12,000 prefabricated apartments aimed at young families on a tight budget in Sweden, Norway and Finland, and is preparing to construct 150 timber-framed eco-homes in Worthing, West Sussex.

The result was SilviaBo ("Silvia-living"), a line of flats that are built in a factory, complete with all their furnishings and an Ikea kitchen suite, and then dropped into place on the building site.

Together with the plumbing and electrical wiring, the whole process of assembling a unit of seven or eight flats in situ is meant to take less than a week.

The basic apartments, which come with one or two bedrooms and are intended to cost no more than £1,500 a month, are built in blocks of between two and four floors around park-like communal gardens with flowers and fruit trees and "village greens" for picnics and barbecues. Each is subtly adapted to the needs of older people, with automatic doors and wide entrances to accommodate a wheelchair.

SILVIABO; BOKLOK/IKEA

The low-cost SilviaBo flats were inspired by Queen Silvia's experience of caring for her mother

Should one of the residents have dementia diagnosed, the flat can be upgraded with an adjustable wash basin, knobs and heat sensors on the ovens, and an alarm button in the bathroom.

At Queen Silvia's instigation, the height of the shower screens has been fixed at 1.2m so that a carer can bend over the side to wash their charge without getting splashed. She also insisted that each bedroom have a door opening directly into the bathroom to cause minimum confusion to dementia patients waking in the night.

Mr Spangenberg, 57, said Queen Silvia, 76, the country's longest-reigning queen, had been more closely involved in the project "than we could have dreamt of".

"She really saw how it can be to have a spouse or a parent who gets these kinds of symptoms or illnesses," he said. "She provided us with pictures of the solutions that she had invented in her own home because she was sick of getting wet when she tried to help her mother take a shower."

BoKlok is holding talks with the local authorities in Bristol and Swindon over building standard apartments in the UK.

Wolf-fruit and stegosaurs among 400 new species

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

More than 400 species have been discovered by researchers for the Natural History Museum over the past year, including a new type of stegosaur and a Greta Thunberg beetle.

The museum's experts warned, however, that species were being lost faster than they were discovered. Many creatures and plants will vanish before they can be documented.

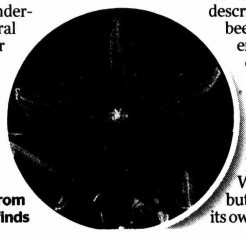
The discoveries included a variety of "wolf-fruit" plant from Brazil. Adorned with vivid purple and lilac flowers, it was named *Solanum medusae*. Also found was the first new species of pit viper seen in India in 70 years.

A new species of the pig-footed bandicoot, *Chaeropus yirratji*, was also discovered. The Australian marsupial had vanished by the 1950s.

Researchers identified eight wasps, five centipedes, four aphids, 13 snails and 34 moths and butterflies.

Tim Littlewood, the museum's executive director of science, said there was still much to learn about the planet: "Learning how evolution has yielded new species able to live in Earth's diverse habitats is awe-inspiring. Sadly, much of that adaptation and biological diversity is now severely threatened and we are losing species faster than we can discover them.

"We are losing our understanding of the natural world, breaking our own connection with it and the connections that underpin nature's stability. Greater awareness of what we're losing and what can yet be found will hopefully inspire action towards a planet that thrives with our help."



A type of "wolf-fruit" from Brazil was among the finds

The largest group of newly described species were beetles. Museum researchers discovered 171, including *Nelloptodes gretae*, named after the Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg. It was first found in 1965 by the British naturalist William Block in Kenya but was not recognised as its own species until this year.

Mixed-sex couples to tie the civil knot

Anna Behrmann

The first mixed-sex couples will finally be able to enter into civil partnerships today, 14 years after same-sex couples were given the chance.

Along with thousands of others, Rebecca Steinfeld, 38, and Charles Keidan, 41, will enter into a civil partnership in Chelsea register office, west London.

The couple took on the government for the right to enter into a partnership in a five-year legal battle, culminating in a successful Supreme Court ruling last year. However, the pair have been told that because of an arcane clause of the 1976 Legitimacy Act they must re-register the births of their two children, aged four and two, or any future offspring could have greater legal rights of inheritance.

The law stigmatised their children, the couple said, adding: "It just seems so archaic and out of touch and offensive that they would be considered to have a different status to any children we would have in the future. We will not be reregistering their births on principle."

Among the other couples celebrating will be Julie Thorpe, 61, and Keith Lomax, 70, from near Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, who have been in a relationship for 37 years. Ms Thorpe said: "It won't change our relationship one jot. It does give us some legal protection within that relationship."

Mixed-sex couples in England and Wales in a civil partnership will have similar rights and entitlements as married couples, such as marriage allowance tax relief and exemption from inheritance tax.

Grave is illegal but court lets the matter rest

Jack Malvern

It was Jim Haxby's dying wish to be buried in his local churchyard in Filey even if he had "to be buried upright or left in his box" on the ground.

Unfortunately, the graveyard at St Oswald's on the East Riding coast has been closed for new burials since December 2014 by order of the Queen.

The Rev Nigel Chapman explained to the family and their funeral director that although they could seek to bury Mr Haxby's ashes, it would be illegal to bury him bodily unless it was on top of an existing family grave.

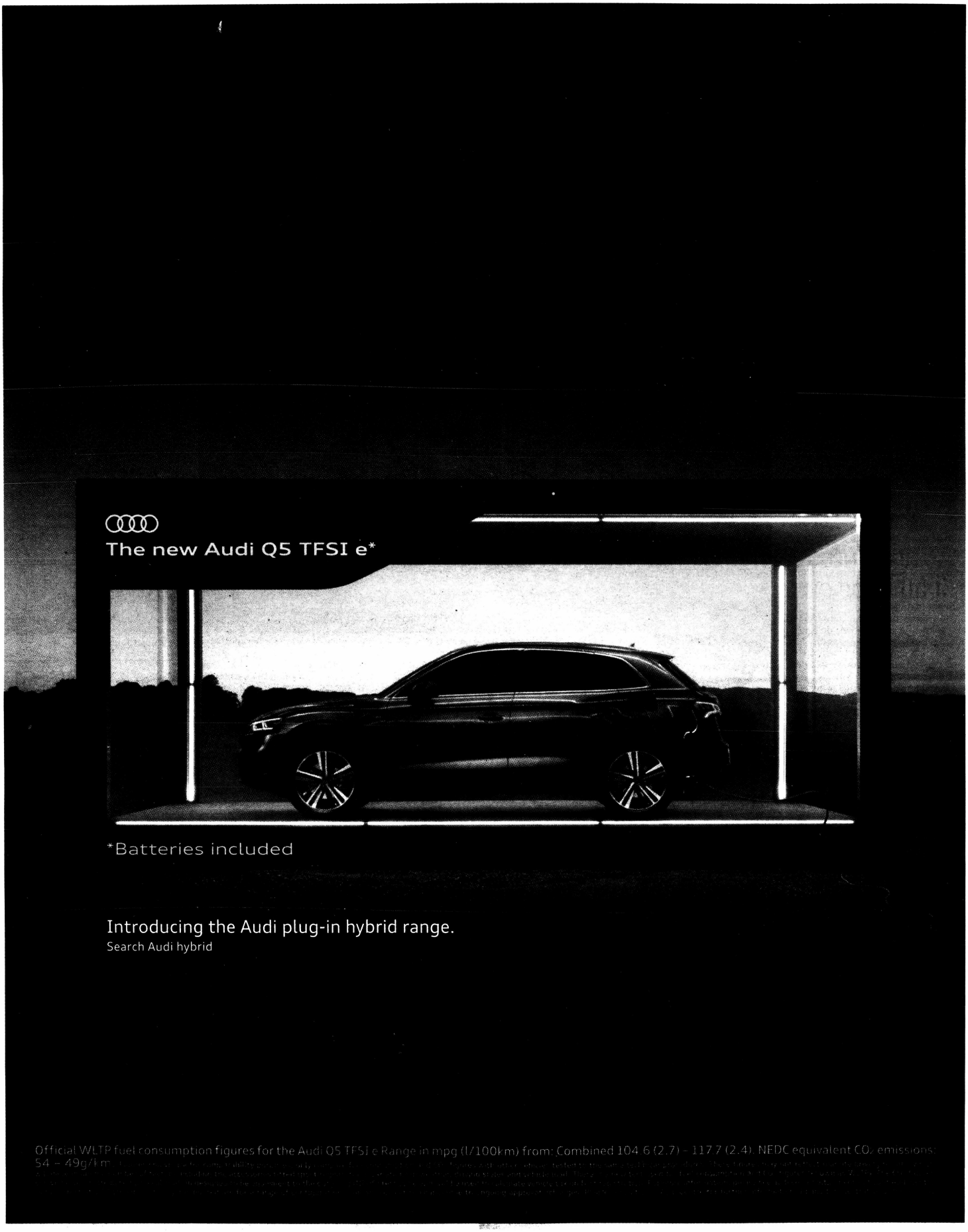
However, while the vicar was taking a break to attend a course the funeral took place and the body was interred.

An investigation by the consistory court of the diocese of York has ruled that the burial was illegal but that the body should remain where it lies.

Canon Peter Collier, QC, chancellor for the diocese of York, found that the blame lay largely with Vic Bowes, the funeral director.

Mr Bowes told the court he had thought that burying Mr Haxby in a narrow space next to his brother's grave was legitimate because it was part of the family plot. Mr Collier wrote that Mr Bowes may have been swayed by his friendship with the deceased or found it difficult to handle the family but that he should have acted as a professional.

Despite declaring the burial illegal, Mr Collier did not seek the body's removal because exhuming it would not "make what was unlawful lawful".


The new Audi Q5 TFSI e*
*Batteries included
Introducing the Audi plug-in hybrid range.
Search Audi hybrid
Official WLTP fuel consumption figures for the Audi Q5 TFSI e Range in mpg (l/100km) from: Combined 104.6 (2.7) - 117.7 (2.4). NEDC equivalent CO2 emissions: 54 - 49g/km

You donut! Blundering police must pay cake fines

John Simpson Crime Correspondent

While there's a watchdog for serious cases of police misconduct, it turns out that for everyday slip-ups officers have their own secret system of punishment: the cake fine.

The payment of cakes to colleagues for incompetence on duty has become such an in-joke in the force that it has its own mock legislation — known as the Cake Offences Act 2018 — with strict rules matching the severity of offence with the appropriate penalty.

An officer uttering "the Q word" (quiet) while on shift invokes an age-old superstition that mayhem will ensue and is deemed worthy of punishment.

Fines have resulted from spraying a colleague in the face with incapacitant spray, dropping the keys to a squad car in a storm drain and falling through a roof while searching a suspect's house.

Getting a vehicle stuck in snow, mud or floodwater constitutes an offence, as does getting locked in or out of a car or van and crashing any police vehicle, including a bicycle. Getting engaged or married will cost you cakes, as will getting divorced. Losing, breaking and having equipment stolen are punishable by way of cake, as are uniform mishaps such as forgetting a hat or wearing the wrong combination of clothing.

The author of the act, which now extends to other emergency services, is an officer known as the Cake Legislator, who is consulted via social media as to whether an offence has been committed and the appropriate fine.

In an email to *The Times*, he or she said: "Each offence must be treated on its own merits. However, some of the worst offences include losing a prisoner or Taser-spraying a colleague."

The highest official fine is home-made cake, or cooked breakfast for the team. Second highest is a Krispy Kreme tray. "All in all, the whole act is flexible. Things can be increased, exceptions made and that's where I come into my own," the cake enforcer added.

The tradition does little to dispel the image of overweight police officers failing fitness tests, but the legislator adds: "It's all to help team morale, and keep everyone going in a job that can be thankless and gruelling." Under the Miscellaneous Cake Offences section, an officer is guilty of an offence if they have a "handcuff malfunction" resulting in the fire service being called. They are also in trouble if they "play any Christmas song in a police vehicle December 1, or allow a Christmas song to play in a vehicle without changing the channel," an offence aggravated if it is *Last Christmas* by Wham!

Officers regularly use social media to discuss their "punishments"

One anonymous report claimed that a rookie officer had filed a deceased report with his own name on, which resulted in a cake fine with an additional penalty on the anniversary of his "death" each year. Another officer locked himself in the toilet of a McDonald's and was fined after staff had to rescue him.

Cake fines were also called for when Hertfordshire police posted an image of a serving inspector as part of an appeal in place of a suspect wanted for assault.

One officer, tweeting under the name Suburban PC, described tripping over his laces while chasing a suspect. "Three weeks later I'm out of hospital with a ruptured kidney and a hefty cake fine following a kangaroo court."

The National Police Chiefs' Council declined to comment.

TMS

diary@thetimes.co.uk | @timesdiary

When Tutu let it all hang out

Even the safest guest can prove perilous on breakfast television. *TVAM*'s erstwhile queen of the sofa, Anne Diamond, tells Iain Dale's *All Talk* podcast of her telephone interview with Archbishop Desmond Tutu on the day Nelson Mandela's release was announced. In light of the breaking news, a producer hastily called the priest, and Tutu said he was delighted to stay on the line and gave his ebullient response. At the end of the interview Tutu asked if he could go and Diamond said he could. Not realising he was still on air, Tutu said "Good, because I was in the shower and I am standing here stark bollock naked."

HE SHOULD BE SO LUCKY

Dale and Diamond compared interviewing tips, the former suggesting that it was good to remember the best questions you had ever heard. A favourite of his was "What would you like to be reincarnated as?", which he was asked while auditioning to be a Tory candidate. Knowing that there were many dog owners watching, he said that he'd return as his Jack Russell, but his opponent gauchely replied that they'd come back as "Kylie Minogue's bicycle seat". Dale's opponent clearly knew the blue-rinse brigade's tastes better, because he went on to become a government minister. The LBC man could tell us who it was, but he's sitting on it.

Amid tonight's revels, Sandi Toksvig is likely to remember her grandfather, who had an eye for such occasions. Literally. After losing one of his peepers, he had two glass eyes made. The first matched the original, while the second was bloodshot. "It was known as grandpa's party eye," Toksvig recalls. Before a night on the town, he would remove the original one and replace it with the reddened one and say "I'm going out now and I shan't be back until they match".

CHURCHILLIAN CHARM

Twitter is a putrid river, but every now and then it yields a fleck of gold. Yesterday's was a clip of Orson Welles talking about getting money for his films. He was once in Venice, by chance in the same hotel where Winston Churchill was holidaying. They had met during the War and, when Welles entered with a potential financier, Churchill nodded at him. Welles noted his companion's reaction. "It was clear that I had the money for my picture." He found Churchill to tell him what that little gesture had achieved. At lunch the next day, Churchill saw Welles enter with another money man. He looked at the director, rose from his seat, and bowed from the waist.

To tie in with the new film of Little Women, The Washington Post *published an article about the novel with a warning attached. "This includes spoilers about the book by Louisa May Alcott, which we have all had 150 years to read," it declared. I don't know about their editorial staff, but even Prince Philip's only had 98 years to read it.*

A WELL-OILED PROPOSAL

Thanks to every reader who congratulated my fiancée, Ruth, and me following Patrick Kidd's sweet but outrageous announcement of our engagement. In it, he claimed that I was overcome by "yuletide spirit (advocaat, one suspects)", and that I "got up on one knee" to pop the question". Slanderous. It was Courvoisier and he knows it.

JACK BLACKBURN

News National Archives

No 10 feared 'cuddly bear' Yeltsin

Valentine Low

Knocking back the beer and wine, wondering where the brandy had got to — and then having his champagne snatched from him by a zealous aide: there has rarely been a world statesman like Boris Yeltsin.

Now declassified papers have revealed how the government was so worried about the Russian leader's drinking and his health after his second heart attack that they drew up extensive contingency plans in case he should die suddenly.

They included a draft statement for John Major to deliver in the House of Commons, and even a message of condolence for Norma Major to send to the president's wife, Naina.

The papers show officials thought Yeltsin was "listless" and wooden as he attended a G7 summit in Halifax, Nova Scotia, which was held in June 1995 while a hostage crisis was developing as Chechen rebels seized a hospital in the Russian city of Budennovsk.

However, when he arrived in Halifax he was pulling out all the "populist crowd-pleasing tricks" according to a Foreign Office interpreter, Tony Bishop.

He wrote in a memo released by the National Archives in Kew: "Like some benevolent cuddly bear, milking handshakes among the crowd with evident relish, beaming in all directions, raising one startled babe in arms way above his head, mock-conducting a short snatch of folk music specially staged along his route by a group of 'historic 18th century Canadians', grabbing an infant performer impromptu out of the circus ring and wringing applause from the crowd: this was a man out to forget the bloody hostage crisis still developing at home."

At the end of a summit session his protocol chief seemed in a hurry to shepherd him out, wrote Mr Bishop, saying: "You can make your way out now without further ado. No need to stay another moment. Do you want the loo straight away? No? OK, let's go, then." With that, Mr Bishop wrote, "He meekly left."

At a summit in New York in October, held at Franklin Roosevelt's former home, an official recorded: "He consumed wine and beer greedily and regretted the absence of cognac. One of his aides took a glass of champagne away from him when the aide felt enough was enough, and he was alcoholically cheerful at his press conference with Clinton."

A meeting with Mr Major during a reception held by President Clinton "began with Yeltsin practically crushing the prime minister in a warm embrace, saying that he had not seen enough of the prime minister recently, and suggesting they should meet tomorrow".

When Yeltsin was admitted to hospital with heart problems it led to concern in Downing Street.

After he came out of hospital Kremlin aides talked up an early return to work, but British officials were so worried that they decided to draw up contingency plans.

One wrote in October 1995: "Yeltsin is six years older than the average life expectancy of the Russian male (58) and has now had two heart attacks in 3½ months. His approved intention to curb his drinking after his first heart attack did not endure: there is little reason to be confident that he will do better this time. He is a bad insurance risk."

A draft parliamentary statement was drawn up for Mr Major, which said: "The Russian people have lost a leader of courage and vision, whose destiny it was to lead Russia through the dramatic last months of the Soviet Union and its emergence as a new sovereign state."

The message for Mrs Major to send to his widow in the event of his death read: "John and I enormously enjoyed those happy times we had in the company of Boris Nikolaevich and yourself. I fondly remember in particular the weekend we spent together at Chequers . . . the world has suffered a grievous loss."

Despite his drinking and his heart problems Mr Yeltsin did not die until 2007, aged 76. He was the first Russian premier in 113 years to be buried in a church ceremony.

Sir John Major, who had then been out of office for a decade, and the Duke of York were Britain's representatives at the funeral.

Nato invitation for Russia

Britain considered a move to bring Russia in from the cold after the fall of communism by inviting it to become a member of Nato, government papers have revealed.

The cabinet had secret talks during the Boris Yeltsin era about whether Russia should be asked to be an associate member.

The idea was suggested in 1995 by Malcolm Rifkind, then defence secretary in the Major government, and discussed at a foreign policy seminar at Chequers in January that year.

It came at a time when former members of the Warsaw Pact such as Poland and Hungary were lobbying to join Nato.

A Foreign and Commonwealth Office paper released among a tranche of declassified documents at the National Archives in Kew said: "The Russians ... strongly dislike Nato enlargement but have come to recognise that they are not going to be able to stop it."

Mr Rifkind, now Sir Malcolm, wrote at the time: "The most difficult problem we face is how to integrate Russia into the European and western family of nations in a realistic and sensitive manner."

It would be impossible to make Russia a full member of Nato, he said. He suggested an alternative solution of creating a new category of associate member with the right to attend meetings.

A Downing Street briefing paper for the prime minister asked if Mr Rifkind's suggestion was "realistic" and noted: "Important that we keep confidential the fact that we are considering the idea."

The plan failed to gain traction among cabinet colleagues and was quietly dropped.

Sir Malcolm said last night: "If you think back, that was pre-Putin, we had Gorbachev and Yeltsin who were very co-operative and they were genuinely wanting to become closer to the West."

Major on sticky wicket over Olympics

Valentine Low

When John Major's officials suggested that his diary was "too heavily committed" for him to attend an event, it could only mean one thing: there was a Test match on.

Government papers have revealed that the former prime minister's love of the game extended to turning down an opportunity to go to the Olympics and seeing Britain's only gold medal.

During 1996 Mr Major's officials tried to talk him into going to Atlanta, where he would have had a chance of seeing Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent compete in the final of the coxless pairs and Kelly Holmes run in the semi-final of the 800 metres.

There was just one problem: England were due to play Pakistan at Lord's.

Mr Major — now Sir John — had already come under "some pressure" from Craig Reedie, chairman of the British Olympic Association, to go to Atlanta, according to Downing Street.

His private secretary, Rachael Reynolds, quickly got busy managing the association's expectations. She wrote: "I do not think the diving or the badminton would attract the prime minister." But, she suggested, he could be interested in sports such as hockey or athletics.

An official from the Department of National Heritage, which handled sport, wrote: "We understand that President Chirac, possibly President Mandela, the prime ministers of Finland, Jamaica and Namibia, the President of Poland and the King of Sweden are expected to be in Atlanta at the same time."

Admitting it was close to the prime minister's holiday, Ms Reynolds was obviously keen to go herself. She told Mr Major: "While having to declare a personal interest here . . . I do think it would be a pity if you were to give up going entirely. It is likely to be your last chance. I can't imagine we will send you all the way to Sydney for a couple of days in 2000 so unless you are planning on 2004 . . . "

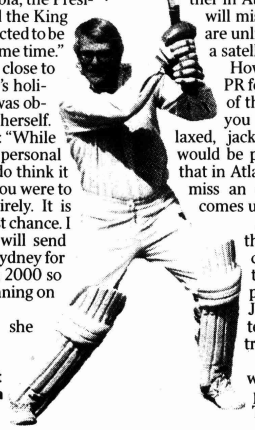
He would also, she said, not be the only head of government going. "But in the end, it is up to you. If you think you will be too exhausted to enjoy it there is no point in putting yourself through it."

She also said he would be "very tired" at the end of July and the weather in Atlanta would be hot. "You will miss the Lord's Test and we are unlikely to be able to pick up a satellite channel in America."

However, it would be good PR for him, she argued. "Some of the best pictures we see of you in the media are in relaxed, jacket-off mode and there would be plenty of opportunity for that in Atlanta. It would be a pity to miss an opportunity which only comes up every four years."

A week later she wrote to the British Olympic Association: "The prime minister has decided that his programme at the end of July is too heavily committed for him to be able to travel to Atlanta."

Redgrave and Pinsent won gold in the coxless pairs. England lost the Test match.



John Major was too keen on cricket to go to the Atlanta Games in 1996

PM ducked out of joining Clinton on trip to Belfast

Valentine Low

John Major decided against visiting Northern Ireland with Bill Clinton partly because aides feared his having to "hide behind the potted plants" as he tried to avoid Gerry Adams, according to declassified government papers.

Mr Clinton became the first serving US president to visit Northern Ireland in November 1995, when he spoke in favour of the peace process at a huge rally at Belfast City Hall. His decision to grant Mr Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, a US visa in 1994 — and shake his hand during a second visit in 1995 — was credited with aiding the IRA ceasefire, which later led to the Good Friday agreement.

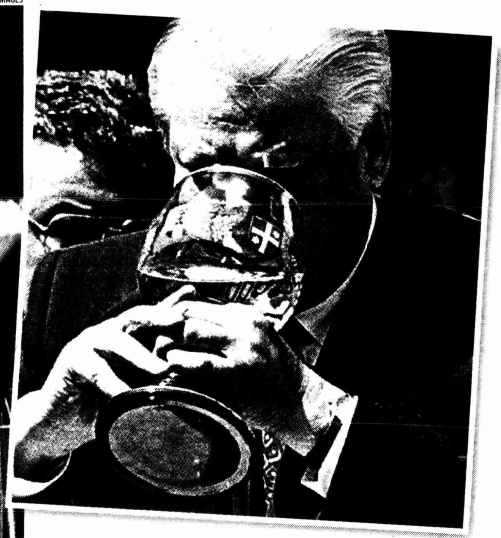
However, before Mr Clinton's Belfast visit there were negotiations between the British and Americans over whether Mr Major would go with him. Downing Street feared that if Mr Major went to a reception with Mr Clinton in Belfast, Mr Adams would inevitably be invited, which would cause embarrassment for the prime minister, who had yet to meet the Sinn Fein leader. At first Mr Major wanted to go, according to papers released by the National Archives in Kew. The previous year Mr Clinton had gone out of his way to meet the prime minister in Pittsburgh, even though he did not normally accompany visiting heads of government outside Washington. "The prime minister felt that he must reciprocate, despite the difficulties," No 10 wrote.

However, there could be a political price to pay if Mr Major attended an evening reception for Mr Clinton in Belfast, the Northern Ireland Office warned. Robert Crawford, a Stormont aide, wrote: "We cannot see a way of the prime minister avoiding Gerry Adams without reverting to the undignified hiding-behind-potted-plants scenario, which creates almost as valuable a news story as the first handshake."

Mr Crawford warned of the "real risk of political damage" if Mr Major was "too closely associated with this part" of Mr Clinton's visit. "The unionist community still mistrusts the president, and the nationalist community (particularly Sinn Fein) will be ready to make capital of perceived slights."

was drinking himself to death

YURI KADOBNOV/EPA/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK; PETER MUELLER/REUTERS; WALLY MCNAMEE/CORBIS/GETTY IMAGES



Boris Yeltsin, dancing at a campaign event and just having the one in Germany, had officials worried about his health. Below, at the "alcoholically cheerful' press conference with Bill Clinton

Aide got the hump over Foreign Office 'camels'

A Downing Street aide referred to Foreign Office officials as "camels" as they battled over a visit to Israel by John Major in 1995, declassified government papers reveal.

Early plans for the trip included the Foreign Office minister Douglas Hogg calling on Orient House, the office of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in east Jerusalem.

After coming under pressure from the Israelis, Downing Street wanted to drop the visit but the Foreign Office, which was keen not to offend the Palestinians, lobbied to keep it in.

Roderic Lyne, Mr Major's foreign affairs adviser, wrote a dismissive note about the Foreign Office. "This is slightly naughty, but I am wary of camels. They may look innocuous, but they can get you into trouble."

He added in another note: "Time to stand up to the FCO's Arabist lobby!"

The Foreign Office held firm, prompting Mr Lyne, now Sir Roderic, to write: "These Foreign Office camels never give up. I'm amazed they allowed us to go to Israel at all."

To solve the problem, Mr Hogg dropped out of the visit altogether, removing the possibility of offending the Palestinians. A Foreign Office official went to Orient House instead.

Grieving parents' anger after horror of Dunblane

Grieving parents at Dunblane Primary School demanded an urgent clarification from John Major days after the massacre on March 13, 1996 amid concern that the government was about to renege on a pledge to help, a newly released letter reveals.

Gerry McDermott, spokesman for the school board of governors, sought answers after reports reached them that Michael Forsyth, the Scottish secretary, had backed down on a commitment to use state funds rather than public donations to rebuild the gym where 16 children and their teacher were killed by a gunman.

In a letter to Mr Major on March 27, Mr McDermott wrote that he wished "to put on record my extreme disappointment in the manner in which this bereaved community has been manipulated, maximising media opportunity, yet failing to deliver a widely reported promise of assistance". Mr Forsyth responded that there was no truth in the suggestion. A note from Mr Forsyth to the prime minister has also been revealed, thanking Mr Major's wife, Norma, for being "marvellous" during a visit to the community.

Note of caution! Don't draw fivers from a hat

A Downing Street aide refused permission for John Major to take part in a charity fundraiser amid fears it could entangle him in an offence.

Rachael Reynolds, a private secretary, told the Institute of Directors' Midlands branch that the prime minister would not be able to take part in the charity draw at their new year luncheon in January 1996 as it would probably involve him coming into contact with defaced £5 notes.

Ms Reynolds was concerned when she was told by the correspondent, JD Miller, that entrants would sign bank notes, one of which would be picked from a hat — ideally by Mr Major — to receive a pair of tickets to New York. She wrote: "I trust you are aware that defacing currency is an offence! We are always extremely careful to ensure that the prime minister does not sign currency for this very reason and I think it would be very difficult for the prime minister to be seen to draw out currency in that way."

Churchill airport just never took off

Valentine Low

New York has JFK, named after the assassinated 35th president of the United States. Paris has Charles de Gaulle airport, in honour of the president who led the Free French Forces during the Second World War; and Israel has Ben Gurion airport, named after the country's first prime minister.

But the best that Britain can manage is Liverpool's John Lennon airport, named after the murdered Beatle in 2002.

Now it has emerged that John Major considered renaming Heathrow as Winston Churchill airport in tribute to the wartime prime minister.

The suggestion came from Harvey Spack, a businessman who wrote to the prime minister in September 1996 after he had read *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* by Louis de Bernières. In the letter, revealed in government papers held by the National Archives in Kew, he said the people of the fictional Greek island pray for salvation by Churchill.

He wrote: "New York has Kennedy Airport, Paris has De Gaulle and we have the stupid name of Heathrow! It should be renamed with the name of the greatest man of the century, who has no truly great memorial in our country, the Winston Churchill Airport or Churchill Airport."

Admitting it was an hobby horse of his, Mr Spack, an acquaintance of the prime minister who lived in Mayfair, said: "I think it is appropriate timing for you to take such an act and I think it would be superb PR. I can only see this as a tremendous boost to the feelgood factor for all of us."

The prime minister wrote back thanking him for "your intriguing idea about renaming Heathrow airport after Sir Winston Churchill". He added: "I am looking into this and I am grateful to you for raising it."

Mr Major — now Sir John — was on familiar terms with Mr Spack. They wrote to each other as "Dear John" and "Dear Harvey", and Mr Spack referred to a break that John and Norma Major, his wife, had had in France.

Mr Major asked Sir George Young, the transport secretary, for his views on the idea, "both on the merits and the practicalities and also on how this might be floated if it seemed worth pursuing". However, nothing more was heard of it.

Last year a book claimed that when he was mayor of London Boris Johnson overruled a suggestion to name Crossrail after Churchill because he preferred to pay tribute to the Queen. Andrew Adonis, now Lord Adonis, who was then Labour transport secretary, wanted to rename Crossrail the Churchill line.

Lord Adonis told the author Christian Wolmar: "I thought it should be called the Churchill line because Churchill was a great London figure and he saved London. But Boris was intent on the Elizabeth line after chatting to some royal — I am not sure which one — and the pull of the royals became too great."

He added: "If I were mayor of London I would rename Heathrow airport after Churchill. I'm amazed it hasn't happened . . . it should."

Heathrow is named after the hamlet of Heath Row, near to where it began as an airfield in 1929.

After the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, in 1997, there were calls to rename the airport after her. The idea gained cross-party support at Westminster, including from William Hague, who was then the Tory leader.

Leading article, page 25

CV boasts from the young Bercow, scourge of the left

Jack Malvern

As Speaker of the House, John Bercow acquired a reputation as a defender of liberal causes and for blocking right-wing politicians who wanted to leave the European Union without a deal.

Whether this reputation is deserved, it was not one to which he aspired early in his career, according to a copy of a CV he wrote at the age of 32.

Mr Bercow, 56, who stepped down in October after ten years as Speaker, portrayed himself as a scourge of left-wing councillors at Lambeth council in south London in a CV that also boasted of his qualification as a tennis coach.

The CV, part of papers released by the Cabinet Office to the National Archives, described how he had "exposed waste and corruption by the extreme left in control of the council" at Lambeth. It detailed how he "fought against left-wing policies, double standards and dirty tricks campaigns by Liberal Democrat councillors".

Mr Bercow said he had increased membership of the Essex University Conservative Association "from 60 to over 200" during his time studying there in the mid to late 1980s, and listed "squash, reading, swimming and cinema" among his interests.

John Bercow, left, was part of the Conservatives' trade team in 1997, with John Redwood and Oliver Letwin

Mr Bercow, who served on Lambeth council from 1986 to 1990, was applying to be a special adviser to the chief secretary to the Treasury in 1995 at the request of Kenneth Clarke, who was chancellor of the exchequer.

He was elected MP for Buckingham for the Conservatives in 1997 and began a decade as Speaker in 2009. He stood down at the last general election.

News

JANE BARLOW/PA

Firestarter Performers from PyroCeltica led the torchlight procession on Edinburgh's Royal Mile to celebrate Hogmanay

Police struggle to trace kidnappers demanding bitcoin

Fariha Karim

Kidnappers are becoming harder to track down as they demand cryptocurrencies as ransom payments, police have said.

Scotland Yard said that kidnap investigations were growing increasingly complex because of the emerging use of cryptocurrencies instead of hard cash.

The National Crime Agency has been working with forces to develop strategies to capture kidnappers and blackmailers demanding cryptocurrencies. It is easier to track criminals who rely on cash because the serial numbers of banknotes can be traced and the location of any handover offers clues to the kidnappers' whereabouts.

Cryptocurrencies can offer anonymity to users. They are digital cash, with no coins or notes to carry around, and are transferred via a computer. Transactions are recorded and though they may be made public are linked only with an electronic address, meaning that a user can maintain privacy as long as the pseudonym is not linked to them.

Blackmailers, such as hackers breaking into national IT systems, are increasingly known to be demanding cryptocurrencies, although there have also been high-profile kidnappings involving bitcoins in recent years.

In September last year the American entrepreneur William Sean Creighton disappeared in Costa Rica. Kidnappers demanded a ransom of $5 million in bitcoin but his family were only able to pay $1 million. Despite the transfer Mr Creighton was not released and his body was found in an unmarked grave in Costa Rica this September. He was thought to have been targeted because he ran a sports betting business that took bitcoins as payment.

In July police in India rescued two bitcoin traders, Luftan Sheikh and Malang Shah, who were kidnapped by a gang who demanded 80 bitcoins, worth 800,000 rupees (£8,500) at the time.

Scotland Yard said that kidnaps were becoming more difficult to investigate as criminals used encrypted communications.

In a force management statement, the Metropolitan Police said: "The majority of kidnaps are criminal debt vendettas. Ransom demands are typically made by phone, which offer some level of investigative opportunity. The criminal use of encrypted mobile telephones and the use of cryptocurrencies is also an emerging threat, increasing the complexity of investigations."

Phil Brewer, head of the Metropolitan Police modern slavery and kidnap unit until his retirement in September, said: "It's something that forces have been preparing for. Once that money is moved into an e-world the chances of identifying where it goes after that are slim to negligible.

"A physical handover of money gives opportunities in terms of evidence. We have had some [cryptocurrency] demands but they were exceptions. Most demands are still very much physical cash."

Kidnappers dealing in cryptocurrencies used email or electronic communications, he said. "A demand will be made. The money will be put into an electronic account. Once the payment has been made, tracking the money trail is pretty much impossible."

The cryptocurrencies market remains highly volatile, with almost no governmental regulation or oversight. One bitcoin is currently worth £5,566 but prices can fluctuate rapidly.

The Metropolitan Police said that officers were continually working on new ways to detect kidnappers, regardless of their method. A spokeswoman said: "The Met continually develops its response to complex investigations such as kidnap. The Flying Squad will continue to work alongside a number of other specialist units to identify and pursue offenders and ensure the safe and swift recovery of kidnap victims."

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RHYS WEBB

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COMMENT

Daniel Finkelstein

Truth is about to make a comeback

MAIN PAPER

I want a normal life again, says Greta

Ben Webster Environment Editor

Greta Thunberg is looking forward to going back to school and becoming a "normal teenager".

The climate change activist, 16, has been taking a gap year during which she has addressed world leaders at conferences in the US and Europe and sailed across the Atlantic to avoid flying.

Now Miss Thunberg says that she is looking forward to returning to lessons with other teenagers in August.

"I'm really looking forward to going back to school," she told *Today* on Radio 4, which she guest edited yesterday.

"I just want to be like anyone else, I want to have a normal life not having to organise marches. I want to educate myself and to be a normal teenager."

She hit back at world leaders who have criticised her, such as President Bolsonaro of Brazil, who called her a brat, and President Trump, who said that she had an "anger management problem" and suggested she "chill" by going to a film with a friend.

"They are terrified of young people bringing change which they don't want," she said, describing the attacks as funny. "That is just proof we are actually doing something and that they see us as some kind of threat."

Miss Thunberg, who glared at Mr Trump in the lobby at the United Nations in New York in September, said that talking to him would have been a waste of time. She said: "He is obviously not listening to scientists and experts. Why would he listen to me?"

She said that she feels climate activists are being listened to, although the science is being ignored by politicians and those in finance and the media.

Miss Thunberg said that going into the new year she was feeling "realistic", adding: "It is not like it is going to change overnight."

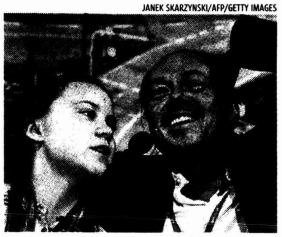
The teenager, who has Asperger's syndrome, said she had suffered with depression and felt her activism had been a medicine. "It really helps in getting out of that depression because it gives a feeling you are having an impact," she said.

She thanked the broadcaster Sir David Attenborough, who had inspired her to take action. Watching documentaries about the natural world when she was younger had "opened her eyes" to the climate change crisis, she said.

She spoke to Sir David on Skype for the first time in a conversation recorded by the BBC. She said: "Thank you for that because that was what made me decide to do something about it."

Sir David, 93, described the impact she has made as "astonishing", adding: "She has achieved things that many of us who have been working on it for 20-odd years have failed to achieve."

JANEK SKARZYNSKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Greta Thunberg and her father Svante who accompanied her to conferences

Miss Thunberg started a school "strike for the climate" outside the Swedish parliament in August last year. It has since spread all over the world.

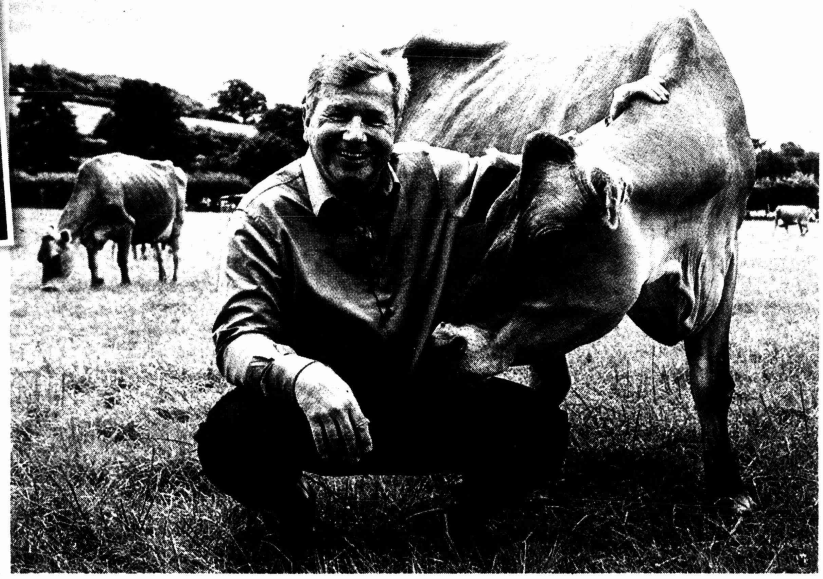
The teenager's campaigning message that the world belongs to young people is "a very powerful one", according to Sir David, who told her: "You have made it an argument that people have not been able to dodge."

Her father said in a separate interview that she became ill three or four years before the school strikes, and stopped eating and talking to others. Svante Thunberg, an actor, said that he and Greta's mother, the opera singer Malena Ernman, made changes in their lives, such as turning vegan and not flying, to "save" their daughter, rather than the world. Their actions had given Miss Thunberg energy.

Mr Thunberg said of her climate change activism: "We thought it was a bad idea, your own daughter sort of putting herself at the front line of such a huge question like climate change. You wouldn't want that as a parent."

Giles Coren, page 22

ALEX RUMFORD



Thomas Hafner, of Mootral, believes that his garlic supplement could cut methane emissions from cows by 38 per cent

Garlic keeps gases down on the farm

The cows on Joe Towers's dairy farm have been burping a lot less since he began adding a little garlic to their feed (Ben Webster writes).

They seem to like the flavour but he is not doing it to keep them happy. His 400 cows have taken part in the largest trial of adding a natural supplement to cattle diet to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas they belch.

Scientists found the mix of garlic and citrus extract reduced methane emissions by up to 38 per cent. The effect was produced by adding only about 15g of the supplement to the cows' daily feed.

Mr Towers hopes the results, published in a study involving the dairy research and innovation centre at Scotland's Rural College, will help consumers to feel less guilty about eating meat and dairy products. About 15 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions come from livestock and a third of that is from methane, which traps 25 times more heat than carbon dioxide but remains in the atmosphere for a shorter period. Most of the methane produced by cattle comes from their burps.

The trial also found that milk yield rose by up to 8 per cent. The cows were also less stressed because the garlic appeared to deter the flies that bother them.

The supplement, which is blended in Abertillery in Monmouthshire by the Swiss company Mootral, had no effect on the milk's taste or smell. Several methane-reducing supplements have been tested on cattle, with the University of California showing that seaweed could reduce methane by 60 per cent. Garlic is cheaper and more readily available.

Mootral's supplement costs about £50 per cow per year, which could be recouped through higher yields. It also claims the supplement reduces udder infections, saving on antibiotics.

However, Mootral concedes that farmers may need an extra incentive to buy the supplement and has developed a system of "cow credits" under which the benefit of the methane reduction could be sold to those seeking to offset their emissions.

For Mr Towers, one of the greatest benefits is improving the image of dairy farming, which he says has been tarnished by unfair attacks by environmentalists who ignore the nutritional benefits of milk. "This is a good opportunity to show the dairy industry does care about the environment," he said.

Planners question Queen's art warehouse

Jack Malvern

The Queen's plan to build an art warehouse in the grounds of Windsor Castle has hit a snag with the local council raising concerns over flooding and trees.

The royal household wants to build a 90m-long temporary structure to act as storage for some of the 10,000 works of art that will be affected by refurbishment to the east wing of Buckingham Palace. The planning application was submitted by Tim Maynard, head of projects for the royal household.

It was described as lacking detail of how surface water would run off the new development, situated at the edge of Windsor Home Park near the residence of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex at Frogmore Cottage. The work at Buckingham Palace is a ten-year project estimated to cost £369 million.

While the most expensive works, including pictures by Canaletto, Rembrandt, Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, will be moved to other royal buildings, palace officials believe that extra storage space is necessary.

They have identified a walled garden near the Windsor Farm Shop as an appropriate site but must await responses by experts before planning is granted. The site is near the grave of Queen Victoria's favourite spaniel, Dash.

A note by the leader of a flood and water management advisory team has called on the scheme's architects to carry out tests for how surface water would be carried away and to provide a detailed drainage plan.

Remsha Mohammed-Remla wrote that the project should not proceed without such plans being submitted. "Unless the applicant is to be given the opportunity to respond [to] the above comments we recommend that this application be refused," she wrote.

The royal household must also aim to plant more trees to compensate for loss of animal habitat.

Helen Leonard, of the tree team at the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, said: "The applicant could consider restoring some of [the lost] tree cover, creating parkland features fitting for the historic park and garden. A pond could potentially be reinstated, perhaps linked to the bourne so it can be naturally filled. The trees and pond may be complementary to the current land use, which I'm informed is grazed."

Boom in ethical spending as shopping habits change

Andrew Ellson

"Ethical spending" has been one of the biggest retail trends of the new millennium, according to research that says households are paying out almost four times as much on Fairtrade, organic, free range and similar categories than 20 years ago.

The Co-op's latest *Ethical Consumerism Report* says that annual ethical spending has risen from £11.2 billion in 1999 to £41.1 billion this year, outgrowing all UK household expenditure which has increased by only 2 per cent in real terms.

The report is a barometer of how people's shopping habits reflect their concerns about the environment, animal welfare, social justice and human rights.

Ethical food and drink, which includes Fairtrade, organic, vegetarian and plant-based alternatives, is by far the largest part of the market with an annual spend of £12 billion last year compared with £1 billion in 1999. The Co-op estimates that British households spend almost £300 million a year on Fairtrade bananas alone.

However, the market for ethical clothing has failed to develop at the same pace. Only £49.9 million is spent in this category every year, less than the weekly amount spent on women's shoes, at £62 million.

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Banishing plastic made my nursery fantastic

Tom Ball

A nursery manager who claims to have created Britain's first plastic-free pre-school believes that the children's behaviour improved after she removed all synthetic toys.

Emily Padgett spent two years ditching plastic playthings in favour of those made from natural materials at the New World Nursery in Washington, Tyne and Wear.

She says that the transformation has helped to stimulate the children's imagination and improved the learning abilities of those with autism.

Instead of Action Man and Barbie, children at the nursery play with wooden dolls from Africa and a suitcase filled with sand where they can create patterns with potpourri pieces.

The rooms are furnished with glass fairy lights, hessian bunting and wicker baskets.

Kitchen staff have stopped cooking any food packaged in plastic and the cleaners use eco-friendly refillable bottles.

The entire transformation took two years and cost about £400.

"It was a brutal process and with staff it took a bit of teaching, but we all stayed positive and looked forward to the new learning methods and atmosphere," Ms Padgett said.

"Since we started introducing the changes, we've actually noticed the children's behaviour has changed. They are more engrossed and have higher levels of curiosity and wonder.

"We have quite a few children who have autism in the nursery and sometimes plastic toys are a bit overwhelming for them because the colours are too stimulating but giving them natural toys helps their creativity and supports their critical thinking."

Ms Padgett, who has two children of her own, started transforming the nursery in September 2017. She has donated hundreds of old plastic toys to charity and sold some to parents at raffles. Staff had training to help them to understand the plastic-free approach. Ms Padgett is now encouraging other nurseries to follow suit.

She said: "Doing your bit for the environment is a big deal and it's a good theme for every nursery to follow — it's what we should all be doing now to help promote active minds."

MERCURY PRESS & MEDIA

Emily Padgett with the toys and equipment the children play with instead of their former plastic favourites, left

Apple cores 'threaten native trees'

Ben Webster Environment Editor

People should not throw apple cores out of car windows in some remote areas because they are a risk to native wild apple trees, a scientist has said.

Markus Ruhsam, a researcher from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, spotted eight non-native apple trees growing along the M90 and A9 in Scotland which he believes seeded from discarded cores.

He said that such trees could hasten the demise of wild apple, known as crab apple, trees, which have already vanished from many areas and been replaced by hybrids after cross-pollinating. The majority of apple trees are already non-native in most of the UK except the southern Highlands, Dumfries and Galloway and the Lake District where the wild apple grows.

Dr Ruhsam said: "I am guilty of it myself — just chucking out an apple core and it lands on the bank next to the road and can produce a tree. With those trees popping up it increases the chances of hybridisation between the native wild apple and the cultivated apple. This scenario would be like the Scottish wildcat, where the more hybridisation happens the fewer wildcats you get."

All cultivated apple trees that produce edible fruit are non-native hybrids. Cultivated apples originated in central Asia and were imported to Europe along ancient trading routes.

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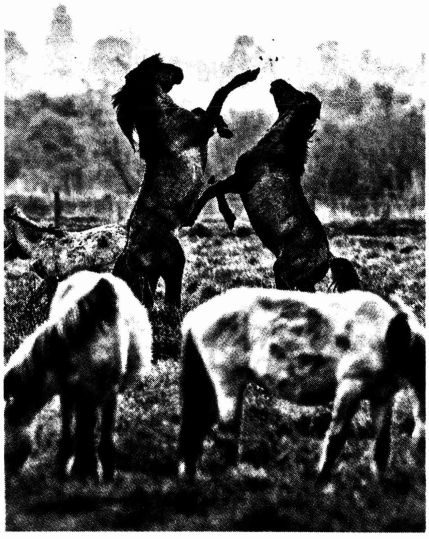
Snapshot of 2019: people power, politics . . . and a cheeky princess

It's been a year of political upheaval, street protests and some of our hottest weather ever. And *Times* photographers Jack Hill, Richard Pohle and James Glossop have been there to capture every moment. They've braved paint-flinging performers at the Edinburgh Fringe to ballerinas with the giggles in Birmingham. They've documented the beauty of nature and those determined to protect it. They've walked beside victims and heroes of war and watched politicians' triumphs and tears. And they've reminded us that even princesses sometimes don't do what Mummy tells them. You can follow *The Times* picture desk on @TimesPictures on Twitter and @thetimes on Instagram.

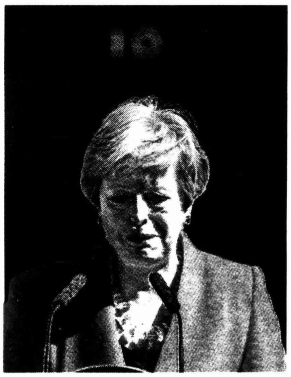


The Grace Spitfire tackled a Buchon fighter at a D-Day 75th anniversary display in June. Britain had its hottest ever day at 38.7C the next month, which proved too much for Grenadier Guards in London. Sparring stallions at Wicken Fen in Cambridgeshire, which is marking 120 years as a National Trust site. Jeremy Corbyn takes the tradesman's exit at Islington Town Hall after his election defeat

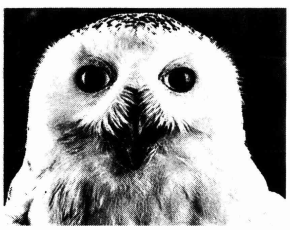
TIMES PHOTOGRAPHERS JACK HILL, RICHARD POHLE AND JAMES GLOSSOP

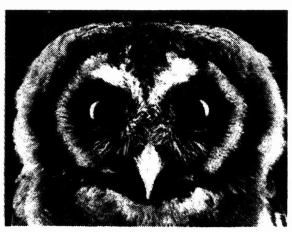
Machine de Cirque, from Quebec, try face painting at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August. Laughter at Birmingham Royal Ballet's rehearsals for the Nutcracker in June. Princess Charlotte in a mischievous mood with the Duchess of Cambridge at Cowes in August and ex-officers of the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry at Gold Beach in June for the 75th anniversary of D-Day

Protesters from Extinction Rebellion are confronted by an irate Lord Fraser of Corriegarth outside his Westminster home in October, while a tearful Theresa May announces her resignation in May. Striking a similar, if more unruffled, pose were a snowy owl and brown wood owl at the Owl Centre in West Lothian



Boris Johnson was accompanied by Dilyn, his Jack Russell cross, as he cast his vote in his December election triumph. Jack Hill visited a refugee camp in northern Iraq, left, in November, home to the Yazidis, who are being helped by The Times Christmas Appeal. The army built a mock enemy town — and then blew it up — for exercises on Salisbury Plain in which Danish troops also took part in October





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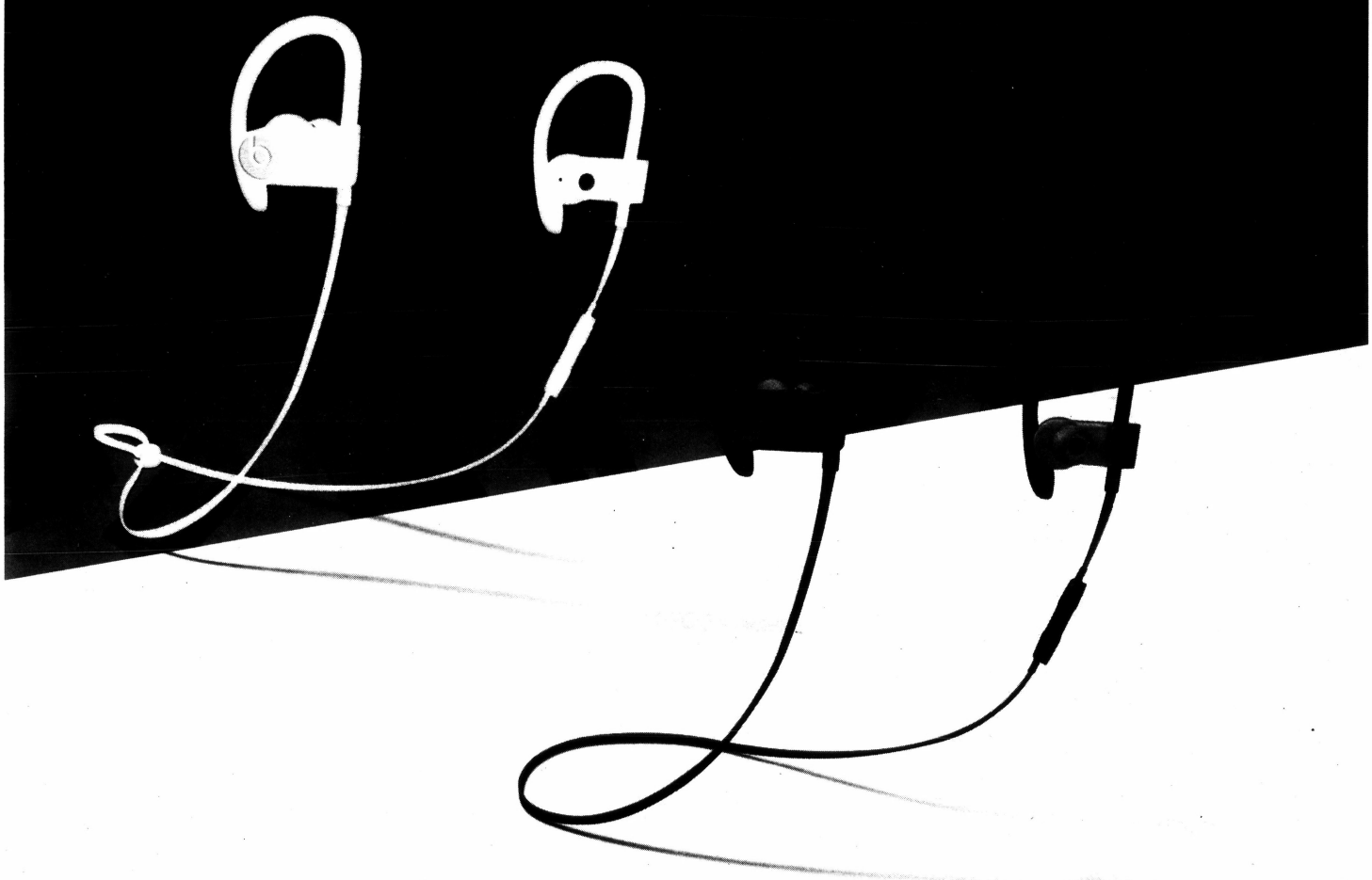

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Influencers can never replace real news
James Marriott
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Comment

China, not Brexit, will define the new decade

Britain needs to think about its place in a world where traditional values of democracy and freedom will be outdated

James Kirkup

@JAMESKIRKUP

A decade ends tonight. What will history judge to be the most important moment for Britain in the 2010s? The most obvious answer may not, in time, be the right one.

A year before he staked everything on the coin-toss of his own charm and cleverness, David Cameron made another decision that forms part of a global story that may well prove more important than Brexit. In 2015, Cameron proclaimed a "golden era" in UK-China relations, fawned over China's Xi Jinping in a pub near Chequers, and decided that Britain would be part of China's Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which lends governments money for big projects.

How can something so arcane possibly be more important than Brexit, the unravelling of our institutional relationship with our nearest and biggest trading partners?

The worst that Brexit will do is slow our economic growth and annoy our friends abroad, who will remain our friends nonetheless. The worst that could come of our approach to China is a genuine loss of national control and the sort of curb on sovereignty the sceptics imagined arose from our EU role. It could also help to unravel the very idea of the West, the interlocking set of partnerships and principles that have delivered unparalleled peace, prosperity and freedom.

The West depends on institutions as well as ideas. Among them are the Washington-based International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which rely on US economic power to support economic growth and stability worldwide. They don't always achieve that, and it's fair to ask if they promote western interests over those of the countries they support. But bigger doubts hang over the AIIB, which is seen in the US as a challenge to the "Washington consensus" that the IMF and World Bank embody. In 2015, the UK willingly endorsed that challenge, with scarcely a ripple at home. But the Obama White House paid attention, and made no secret of its discomfort that a country that likes to think itself America's closest ally was going into business with America's biggest strategic rival.

That the liberal Barack Obama was hawkish on China before the nativist Donald Trump is telling. China's rise towards superpower status is bigger than the domestic politics of any state. It will define the first half of this century just as the US-USSR confrontation defined the second half of the last one. Seen in that context, Brexit will be to the US-China rivalry as France's wobbly relationship with Nato was to the Cold War. An important chapter, but not the whole story.

> That Obama was hawkish on China before Trump is telling

Joining the AIIB decision was part of a British attempt to stay on good terms with both the world's No 1 and No 2 economies, an attempt that also explains timidity over recent turmoil in Hong Kong and prolonged silence over Tibet. The nation that once ruled the waves now sits quietly on the fence on the biggest strategic issue of the age, hoping not to offend anyone.

The fence will only become less comfortable. Early in 2020, Boris Johnson must decide whether to let Huawei, the Chinese telecoms giant, provide part of the infrastructure for Britain's 5G network. Given that no Chinese organisation is ever wholly independent of the Communist Party of China, this gives western securocrats understandable worries that we might be about to hand control of critical national infrastructure to foreign actors. A green light for Huawei might not lead immediately to the US reducing its intelligence co-operation with the UK, but it will bolster arguments in the US foreign policy establishment that Britain is not a truly dependable ally. Yet blocking Huawei would be seen as a hostile act in Beijing and chase away billions in potential Chinese investments in the UK.

Equivocal policies founder on binary decisions. The Huawei decision won't be the last binary here. US trade negotiators have already suggested that any trade deal that Washington strikes with Brexit Britain could be conditional on the UK's dealings with rivals such as China. It is not fanciful to imagine Washington one day forcing a British government to choose between trade with the US and trade with China. The prospect of a post-Brexit trade deal putting such clear constraints on Britain's self-determination would be funny if it weren't so serious.

What should British voters make of all this? The public could be forgiven for lacking developed views of these matters, because they are barely discussed here. Future historians assessing Britain's approach to China's rise will be struck by the paucity of political debate on the topic.

NICOLAS ASFOURI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

After Brexit, our deal with China's Xi Jinping may leave us vulnerable

Is the Belt and Road programme of strings-attached investment an attempt to create captive Chinese allies across Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe? Will China's support for Iran destabilise the Gulf and jeopardise oil and gas flows to the West? What are the global implications of China's creation of a near-Orwellian technology of domestic surveillance and control over information? How can anyone trust a state that imprisons and "re-educates" a million Muslims in Xinjiang? What does China want?

These are questions that few MPs even ask, much less try to answer. To be fair, the Commons foreign affairs select committee chaired by Tom Tugendhat did a good job on Chinese issues in the last parliament. But something as big as this should not be left to a dozen backbenchers. Nor should Chinese questions be confined to the "foreign" file, since China now has real influence on British domestic affairs: universities, banks and other big public companies, even media outlets — all have interests susceptible to decisions taken in Beijing.

And the biggest of the questions posed by China's rise matter to everyone because they pertain to the ideas on which we have built our world. "The West" today stands on the belief that political and economic rights are indivisible: the same freedom that allows us to allocate our money and labour as we wish also allows us to choose those who make our laws, and the combination of the two has made the world richer and freer than any other organising principles in history. So what will it mean if China can deliver sustainable, growing wealth for hundreds of millions of people without also giving them votes?

Partly by design, partly by accident, Britain has spent the past decade flunking the unnerving questions China raises about the world and our place in it. Sooner or later, we will need better answers.

James Kirkup is director of the Social Market Foundation

Rachel Sylvester is away

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Comment

Profumo affair explains the way we live now

Decadence of the Sixties stemmed from the Holocaust that continues to blight our values

Melanie Phillips

@MELANIELATEST

The Trial of Christine Keeler, the BBC television series that started on Sunday evening, provides a fresh interpretation of the 1960s Profumo affair, which convulsed the establishment and came to define an era.

In 1963, the Conservative war minister John Profumo resigned after admitting lying to parliament about his affair with Keeler, the topless showgirl whose simultaneous sexual liaison with a Russian diplomat was held to have endangered British security.

The series seeks to move the focus from Profumo on to Keeler herself. It also reminds us, however, that the affair which consumed her represented a sexual and political watershed. Keeler's promiscuity and the scandal it provoked illustrated the shock to the established cultural order caused by the liberation of female sexuality from its social constraints.

Profumo's fall from grace, meanwhile, is now seen as one of the last times an MP behaved with honour by resigning after admitting lying to parliament.

As a result of that revolutionary decade, Britain could be said to have lost its sexual and political innocence to become a more knowing, self-obsessed and cynical society.

By comparison, successive decades have lacked such clear definition. The reason we keep returning to the Swinging Sixties is that it was the point of change from which everything then followed.

Some see it as a welcome sloughing off of archaic constraints in favour of individual empowerment. Others view it as a loss of moral and cultural compass. Regardless, this upending of the old order had its roots in the aftermath of the Nazi Holocaust.

That event delivered a seismic shock from which the West has never recovered. After all, the Holocaust didn't happen in some obscure backwater. It took place in

> The Holocaust took place in the crucible of European modernity

Germany, the crucible of European modernity and high culture. It thus delivered a body blow to the West's idea of itself as the home of reason and civilised values.

This in turn opened the way for radical ideas that otherwise might not have taken root. In the wake of the Second World War, a group of Marxist thinkers known as the Frankfurt School decided that the Holocaust and the rise of Nazism resulted from the use of authority, which they confused with authoritarianism. They also concluded that the Holocaust had been caused by modernity itself and its belief in reason.

This school of thought set about undermining the West's moral and cultural codes. Objective truth was replaced by subjective opinion, facts were trumped by emotion and all hierarchies in values, lifestyles or cultures ignored. This produced the permissive society, leading into multiculturalism, identity politics and victim culture.

Far from creating harmony, this hyper-individualism has destroyed social cohesion and produced instead divisions. Any dissent from these orthodoxies is suppressed. Argument has been replaced by insult; evidence by assertion. The young are taught not how to think, but what to think. There has been, in short, a retreat from reason.

Only if this is understood can we make sense of the antisemitism now sweeping the West.

After months of attacks on ultraorthodox Jews in New York, five Jews were stabbed on Saturday evening after an attacker armed with a machete burst into a rabbi's house during a Chanukkah celebration. Around the same time in London, graffiti linking Jews to 9/11 was sprayed across a synagogue and shops.

People are shocked. But that in itself is shocking. Because antisemitic attacks have been escalating for years. Anti-Jewish conspiracy theories, including the 9/11 meme, have been circulating for two decades.

This is helped by the way that the West ignores or denies any evidence that conflicts with its prevailing multicultural ideology — which protects or makes excuses for those who attack western culture.

So it ignores the killing of Christians by Islamists in the developing world. It overlooks

> Anti-Jewish conspiracy theories have been circulating for years

the mainly Muslim attacks on Jews and others in France, the Netherlands, Sweden and Germany. Instead, those who draw attention to this are smeared as being racists or Islamophobes or "the far right".

So on the eve of 2020, how will the coming decade be defined? It could be, as Boris Johnson promises, the start of a golden age for Britain in which divisions are healed and the nation bonds again in a shared commitment to national values of decency and rationality.

Or it could be the equivalent of the Weimar Republic a century ago: the brittle and decadent precursor of a terrible showdown between those who defend western civilisation and those who want its building blocks destroyed.

We know all about the Swinging Sixties; we are about to discover which way the Twenties will swing.

Giles Coren Notebook

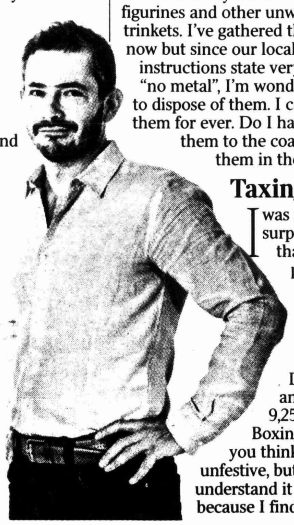
Next time, try taking the train to greet Greta

Look, either we believe in — and give a damn about — the climate crisis or we don't. But for the BBC to give a whole edition of the *Today* programme over to Greta Thunberg, the admirable but entirely symbolic figurehead of the green movement, and then FLY to Stockholm to talk to her, was surely the most cloth-eared broadcasting decision since Prince Andrew said, "I think I'll just go on television and clear this mess up once and for all."

Greta does not know anything that we do not know or say anything that we have not heard, she just *feels* it all more strongly than the rest of us and lives by the rules that most of her fans signally fail to observe. She is about turning intentions into actions. So for a Radio 4 team to go bundling off to Sweden for its Christmas jolly by jet plane, swilling gin and tonics, scarfing handfuls of stale nuts, checking in endless cases of audio equipment and belching out half a tonne of CO_2 per person, is not only laughable but insensitive in the extreme. It's like going to interview the Chief Rabbi about antisemitism dressed as a ham sandwich.

"It felt awkward," Auntie admitted. "But we did not have time for trains or boats." Yeah, none of us does, luv. That is why the planet is f***ed. Even the most ecologically committed of us think, when push comes to shove, that our own time is too precious to waste on travelling responsibly. It is what is known as "the Emma Thompson hypocrisy" and it is going to kill us all. This was a long-planned, pre-recorded interview with a child who doesn't go to school and is available at any time of the night or day. It takes 36 hours to get to Stockholm by land and sea and costs €98. What else were you doing? I mean, Jesus, you had one job…

I approached the BBC for comment, but they were all out bikini-shopping for an upcoming climate special from the Maldives.



Metal menace

Putting her own money where her ecological mouth is, my dear Aunt Josephine bought Christmas crackers this year that were "guaranteed plastic free". So I spent the festive period treading on endless tiny metal whistles, dice, figurines and other unwanted trinkets. I've gathered them all up now but since our local recycling instructions state very clearly "no metal", I'm wondering how to dispose of them. I can't keep them for ever. Do I have to drive them to the coast and lob them in the sea myself?

Taxing day

I was not at all surprised to learn that 3,003 people filed their self-assessed tax returns on Christmas Day this year and a further 9,254 did so on Boxing Day. Maybe you think it's a bit unfestive, but I understand it completely because I find the only thing wrong with Christmas is the depression that sets in after endless days of non-achievement. For us workaholics, pleasure is only attainable as a quid pro quo for work done, which is why — my accountant having selfishly filed my tax return months ago and spoilt my fun — I spent Christmas morning touching up the front door with a small pot of Farrow & Ball Hague Blue exterior eggshell (thank you, Santa), the afternoon clearing out the basement and Boxing Day doing six months of expenses then going online to find cheaper deals on our utilities. Since then, I've had my nose to the grindstone, crafting this immaculate column. Frankly, I'll be glad when the holidays are over and I can get back to some serious eating and drinking.

Greased knighthood

Three cheers for Dame Olivia Neutron Bomb but what about Sir Danny Zuko? You can't just leave him stranded at the throne room, feeling a fool (what will they say, Monday at school?). And I'm not going to accept that John Travolta is ruled out of a knighthood on account of his being a swivel-eyed crazy and senior figure in a cult of lunatics. Because if they gave one to Iain Duncan Smith…

@GILESCOREN

THUNDERER

Lady Hale has left her Supreme Court successor a muddle

Frances Gibb

Judges face being subjected to political scrutiny in a long-running battle with politicians. Ministers have not forgotten — or forgiven — the Supreme Court's ruling in October that they acted unlawfully in suspending parliament. The Conservatives are now considering greater political oversight of judicial appointments to curb such "activist rulings".

Baroness Hale of Richmond, the outgoing president of the Supreme Court, warned this month: "Judges have not been appointed for party political reasons since at least the Second World War. We do not want to turn into the Supreme Court of the United States." But judges have exposed themselves to political attack. Three developments in recent years have steered them into uncharted areas: the growth of judicial review, the Human Rights Act and, as the former Supreme Court justice Lord Sumption has suggested, the democratic deficit, compelling courts to make sense of policies when politicians duck the issue.

Lady Hale insists that judges do not overstep the mark. They only look at the legality of actions by ministers, she says, and not the underlying reasons. But the very lack of a cited reason, "let alone a good reason", was central to the justices' ruling on the suspension of parliament. The Supreme Court decision (and the election result) has emboldened politicians. Indeed Lady Hale herself once suggested that a minister and shadow minister might be co-opted to a panel choosing senior judges to introduce "an element of democratic involvement". Last week, she said that "it would be a great shame" if Britain had political appointments of judges. But that was very different, she added, from politicians being engaged, "hopefully in a bipartisan way".

What does she mean? Any shift towards US-style pre-appointment hearings would rightly meet huge judicial resistance. How could grillings of candidates by politicians not be political? Lord Bingham of Cornhill, when senior law lord, noted that politicians were "not going to ask if [judges] are fond of cats".

Above all, there is an objection of principle. In the UK, unlike the US, parliament trumps the courts. Equally, it should be mindful of the constitutional importance of a strong independent judiciary, fearless of political reprisal. Geoffrey Cox, QC, the attorney-general, does not favour any change. Others, such as Lord Howard of Lympne, the former Tory leader, could rush in where once they feared to tread. Lady Hale's spider brooch may have charmed the Twitterati but she has left a web from which judges must now disentangle themselves.

Frances Gibb is former legal editor of The Times

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Influencers can never replace real news

Teenagers increasingly rely on social media celebrities for current affairs but are being short-changed by their idols

James Marriott

@J_AMESMARRIOTT

By now, most journalists have become accustomed to a sense of crisis. The circulation of print newspapers has been falling for more than a decade. Social media companies continue to rip away the advertising revenue that was once the core of the industry's traditional funding model. Since 2005 there has been a net loss of 245 local papers. Tens of thousands of jobs have been lost.

Miraculously, in the midst of this chaos some stability has been achieved. More than 300,000 people now pay to read *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* digitally. But there are signs that a second, even bigger crisis is on the horizon. Obviously this worries me, a journalist. It should also worry you, a citizen of a democracy. Journalism's second crisis is heralded by the emergence of Generation Z into adulthood. These "digital natives" have no memory of a pre-internet world and little exposure to or knowledge of pre-digital news organisations.

Between 2009 and 2018, the share of teenagers in economically advanced countries who read newspapers declined from 60 per cent to 20 per cent. Instead, a recent Reuters study found, their news comes from social media. That doesn't mean Twitter (home of journalists and politicians) and Facebook (home of old people), it means Instagram and Snapchat. Increasingly it also means podcasts (Reuters found that 54 per cent of people aged 18-24 had listened to one in the past week).

Adults are likely to be loyal to one newspaper. Teenagers prefer to

> Almost every teenage phone has Instagram; few have a news app

browse a number of outlets. Almost every teenage phone has Instagram installed on it — barely any has a news app. Even the influence of the BBC is fading — Ofcom reports that teenagers are more familiar with YouTube and Netflix. The average age of a BBC One viewer is now 61.

It's hardly worth pointing out that YouTube, Netflix, Snapchat and Instagram do not employ foreign correspondents or fund investigative journalism or send reporters to court cases and council meetings. But for many in their teens, news is now more likely to come from an influencer than from a journalist.

This year's Amazon rainforest fires highlighted how bad celebrities are at journalism. The story — admittedly an important one — was all but inescapable on Instagram. Solid facts were harder to come by. Leonardo DiCaprio, Madonna and President Macron all shared inaccurate images of the fires — pictures either from the wrong year or of different forests entirely. Not that journalists are perfect or factually faultless, but this is the sort of basic error that would bring any self-respecting reporter out in a cold sweat of shame. Celebrities don't care.

It's naive to dismiss an error like that as benign. Influencers are eroding the standards of factual accuracy painstakingly established by the British and American broadsheet press. And more sinister examples aren't hard to come by. Last week Buzzfeed reported that influencers including Sofia Richie, Armie Hammer and Winnie Harlow had been using Instagram to chronicle a jaunt to a music festival in Saudi Arabia. Together they cheerfully helped to launder the reputation of an authoritarian government that stones gay people to death and murders real journalists such as Jamal Khashoggi.

It's not clear how news organisations will turn a profit from the disconnected new generation. This is worrying because we don't really know what a modern democracy looks like without newspapers. One of the first editorial lines taken by this paper was support

> We don't know what a democracy looks like without newspapers

of the movement for parliamentary reform, which resulted in the Great Reform Act of 1832. Dark glimpses of a nation that relies on social media for news rather than papers are provided by Burma where Facebook was used to incite genocide.

Journalists keep politicians in check by needling away at dull bits of parliamentary procedure, complex scandals and corrupt councils. None of that stuff appeals to social media influencers, who are chiefly concerned with burnishing their personal brands. It's cooler to care about fires in the Amazon than a corrupt councillor but enough corrupt councillors can add up to something just as bad.

Social media is about personality. As an Oxford University study into the way young people consume the news observes, if you're young "news helps you construct and communicate your identity. The news you engage with contributes to defining and demonstrating who you are, and your world view." This explains the success of news organisations that flatter their readers' sense of personal identity. A *New Yorker* tote bag (free with a subscription) advertises you to the world as a smart-thinking cosmopolitan type.

If there is a future for the news industry it probably lies here. We know that Generation Z is socially conscious — they're prepared to strike over the climate crisis. Supporting the news needs to be seen as an equally important social mission. Something every responsible citizen should feel guilty about not doing. Fortunately, idiotic celebrity journalists are in ready supply. The more self-appointed showbiz "reporters" the public sees, the stronger the case for traditional news becomes. We need newspapers. Our democracy may depend on them.

James Marriott is deputy books editor

Hugo Rifkind is away

Letters to the Editor

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Only connect

Sir, Clare Foges hopes that in the next decade we can "truly connect" with each other ("This has been the decade of disconnection", Dec 30). In her insightful article, she argues rightly that face-to-face contact is integral for this connection to occur. A deep connection with others relies on empathy, which also exposes our vulnerability. This contrasts with the majority of behaviour on social media, which promotes a fantasy world of thousands of "friends", all having a wonderful time. Barack Obama, in an address to graduates in 2006, inspired them to cultivate empathy and urged them to talk about addressing the empathy deficit in modern society. It is in the connection of empathy that we learn more, not only about the other person, but also about ourselves.
Dr David Jeffrey
Honorary lecturer in palliative medicine, University of Edinburgh

In defence of HS2

Sir, In my time as chairman of HS2 neither I, my board nor the executive team have had interactions with Professor Roderick Smith, so I'm fascinated to know the basis of the assertions he makes ("HS2 a bottomless pit for taxpayers' cash, says adviser", Dec 30).

He was well respected as the DfT's scientific adviser, but a lot has changed on HS2 since 2014. Far from being a "risk to taxpayers' money", the scope, estimate and delivery plan for phase one of HS2 is some of the most comprehensive work I've seen in my 50-year career. The peer-reviewed estimate provides the government with a cost estimate it can be confident in. Professor Smith's statement that the team in charge should be replaced is astonishing. As a CEO and chairman working in both the private and public sectors, I have found that the calibre of leadership and technical competence of the team is second to none. HS2 has a rigorous plan and an outstanding team in place. Subject to the government's assessment of the Oakervee review of HS2, investment in infrastructure such as this is critical for the UK's low-carbon transport future, will provide much-needed capacity up and down the country and is integral to the rail projects in the north and Midlands that will help to rebalance the UK economy.
Allan Cook
Chairman, HS2

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Row over scholarships for poor white pupils

Sir, In combination, lawyers and independent schools are among the most over-cautious and conservative institutions in the country. But rather than a case of "teaching timidity" as *The Times* claims, in rejecting ethnically restricted bursary funding, Dulwich and Winchester have decided that such gifts are not compatible with their charitable objects ("Race row as £1m gift is snubbed by elite schools", report and leading article, Dec 30). There's little doubt that other independent schools seeking to increase their bursary provision would not have expressed such reservations. However, private philanthropy, no matter how generous, would not even dent the national disgrace of disadvantaged white boys' under-achievement, particularly in coastal areas. Low familial aspiration and under-resourced schools are a deadly combination that blights many communities, feeding the cycle of ill-health, under-employment and homelessness.
Neil Roskilly
Chief executive officer,
The Independent Schools Association

Sir, The most effective response to the longstanding under-achievement of white working-class boys would be for the government to prioritise and put flesh on the bones of its commitment in the Queen's Speech to support families. Research shows that white working-class families tend to be less engaged with their children's education than other ethnic groups, which are generally better at supporting their children in doing their homework, accessing a computer at home, having reasonable bedtimes and eating together as a family. Advantage and disadvantage start in the home. Local family support services are needed to work long term with those households where children's life chances are poor.
Chris Pratt
Author, *Building a Learning Nation*
Leeds

Sir, I read with interest your article about Sir Bryan Thwaites's difficulty in supporting full bursaries, specifically for white boys from disadvantaged backgrounds, at Dulwich College and Winchester. At the Royal National Children's Springboard Foundation, we support boarding bursaries at about 90 independent and state boarding schools to disadvantaged children for whom the pastoral care of a boarding school is a life-transforming intervention. The children come from all backgrounds, including white working-class boys and a significant number are on the edge of care, or in care. The only focus for us and for others should be on supporting those for whom these bursaries are most effective.
Ian Davenport
Chief executive, Royal National Children's Springboard Foundation

Sir, Trevor Phillips rightly points out that it is dangerous to approach disadvantage in a purely binary manner ("We drafted equality laws for all, regardless of colour", Dec 30). During a lifelong editorial career at the BBC, as one of the few people who did not go to university, I was surrounded by both men and women who had far better life chances than I did. Yet as a white male I was pigeonholed into a privileged group at a time when the BBC was understandably addressing under-representation of women and ethnic groups. I certainly bear no malice and, having entered by chance, I enjoyed a fulfilling and successful career. But in the early years in particular it was difficult to feel privileged when competing against my male and female Oxbridge contemporaries.
Huw Marks
Kingston upon Thames

A new approach

Sir, In the light of the undeniable return of antisemitism it is clear that stopping it requires a fresh approach ("Synagogue and shops targeted in racist attack", Dec 30.) Holocaust memorials and museums, of which there are more than 300 across the world, have failed in that respect. What is needed is reformed education programmes in schools and museums, not limited to the tragedy of the Holocaust, but covering the history of the Jews in centuries past and in the present and their contribution to civilisation, as well as covering antisemitism, expulsions, the exile from and return to Israel and how that self-determining state served as a haven for survivors of persecution in the past and may do so in the future. If education is not as comprehensive as it should be, uninformed visitors to a Holocaust museum, or on a trip to a former concentration camp site, may leave with the impression only of a historic horror. It is vital that it is set in context and deals with today's issues.
Baroness Deech
House of Lords

Older consumers

Sir, Like Edward Lucas I have recently struggled with a digital radio ("Stop treating the old as second-class citizens", Dec 30). It is British-made and the instructions, which I followed carefully, have not therefore been badly translated from another language. I eventually abandoned my efforts to locate BBC Radio 4 and went to the technical support department in my nearest John Lewis. It took the store's engineer 25 minutes. He described the procedure with masterly understatement as "unnecessarily complicated". My second letter today will be written to the manufacturer. It will not be as restrained as this one.
Alexandra Kingston
Twickenham

Sir, Edward Lucas is just so right. I would add to his list of thoughtlessness all the kitchens in sheltered accommodation that have undercounter cupboards and fridges, the far reaches of which remain permanently inaccessible to those whose knees no longer bend the way they used to. Even in a fridge, food will rot in time and the horrors to be found lurking at the back of the bottom shelf have to be seen to be believed and could so easily be avoided by fitting drawers instead.
Anne Balchin
Otley, West Yorks

Matter of honours

Sir, Not so long ago, BT telephone directories were issued yearly and it was only in the most exceptional circumstances that finding a person's phone number and address proved difficult (Whitehall is told to come clean over honours data leak blunder, Dec 30). Surely, the great majority of those on the new year honours list would have been included? Now, in the interests of "security", the failure to withhold this information makes the headlines and is regarded with the utmost seriousness.

Is one to assume that many of us are the likely victims of people with ill intent, or is that the cost of accepting an honour?
Jack Lynes
Pinner

RESTAURANT FESTIVITIES TONIGHT

FROM THE TIMES DECEMBER 31, 1919

Preparations for seeing the New Year in are being made on a large scale. Most of the best-known London hotels have been booked up for weeks, and have had to refuse the numerous inquirers for tables who have waited until the last day or two, but quieter places where a good dinner or supper and a satisfactory dancing floor are obtainable had still some tables available yesterday.

"Surprises" are a great feature of this year's festivities, and managers were somewhat reluctant yesterday to divulge the secrets they were arranging for their guests. At the Ritz a gala dinner and dance has been arranged, and silver trumpets will announce the coming of the New Year. Over 700 diners have booked tables, and they will find New Year souvenirs prepared for them. Dancing will take place in the ballroom from 10pm to 3am. In the restaurant three guineas will be charged, and two guineas in the grillroom. Both include dancing.

An elaborate scheme of decoration has been arranged at the Berkeley Hotel and Cafe Parisien, where many of the public rooms have been turned into dining rooms owing to the large number of applications. A well-known artist has designed a scheme by which the whole of the ground floor restaurant, Cafe Parisien hall, lounges, and women's room have been converted into an 18th-century French garden, and about 700 guests will sit down to a special dinner, the menu for which has been designed by another well-known artist. There will be presents and trumpets and church bells will greet the New Year. Two orchestras will provide music for the dance that follows the dinner. The Carlton will have a dinner in the restaurant and in the grillroom. In the former two guineas will be charged; in the latter 30s. About 500 guests will be present, and there will be dancing from 11 to 2. At the Savoy there will also be a gala dinner and dance, for which the bookings have been exceptionally heavy. At the Waldorf about 1,000 diners are expected. Special decorations and thousands of crackers have been provided. The Criterion has arranged an extensive menu and entertainment. In the dancing room there will be simultaneous dining and dancing. The lights will be turned out at 12 and bells will ring.

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Better access to the Lake District

Sir You report that the majority of the 19.4 million annual visitors to the Lake District are too white, too male and too old ("Lake District must attract more disabled visitors, says park boss", Dec 30). I have enjoyed our national parks on foot, under canvas and by car at various times over most of my lifetime. I am as old as the 1949 National Parks Act. I have never viewed the Lake District, or any other park, as one where I had exclusive access to its beauty, or understanding of the rules to be applied, beyond a respect for the countryside and the people and animals that inhabit it. Widening the opportunities for access is a worthy objective, but I hope the park's authority remembers that the Sandford principle, which prioritises conservation over "promotion of enjoyment", was enshrined in law in 1995. National parks should never be confused with theme parks.
David R Smith
Southport

Sir, Over several decades I have enjoyed the many pleasures of the Lake District fells, but now that I am less able than I once was, maybe the time has come for a travelator along Striding Edge, a chairlift up Scafell Pike and, while they're at it, an umbrella over the whole of Cumbria to ensure no more muddy paths.
Brian May
Birchington, Kent

Give dogs space

Sir, It should not surprise us that pets are increasingly suffering with stress, anxiety, depression and other issues ("Down, boy? Rise in pets given therapy", Dec 30). In my 35 years as a dog behaviourist I have, for the past five to ten years, seen a considerable escalation in anxious, nervous behaviours in dogs. In my opinion it has to do with the change in the relationship between humans and their dogs. From the human's point of view, the relationship appears more focused and intense. Dogs are put on pedestals. They are overindulged and do not need, unless required for a physical condition, special mattresses, for example. Many are emotionally smothered, satisfying their humans' need to nurture. We need to consider the basic needs that require attention. I find that almost never do I counsel humans to give more attention to their dogs.
Katie Patmore
Member of the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors, Sheffield

Quiet please

Sir, Rupert Harper describes how, during the overture to Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, he expounded to his daughter on the behaviour of audiences in Mozart's day (letter, Dec 28). I hope he did so in a barely audible whisper.
Jonathan Hunter
Middlesbrough

A fine mess

Sir, I read that the RHS is promoting "messy gardens" as an aid to protecting wildlife ("Time to make a mess of your garden", Dec 30). May I offer my garden as a prototype, and a perfect example of what can be done?
Sylvia Crookes
Bainbridge, Wensleydale

Daily Universal Register

UK: Celebrations to mark New Year's Eve take place across the country, including firework displays in London and Edinburgh.

Nature notes

Murmurations of starlings are now a feature of the evening sky in many places. These are enormous flocks of starlings that have gathered to roost in a reed bed or on the struts of a long seaside pier. The birds come flying in from all directions, some from countryside as far as 20 miles away. What makes them so spectacular is the way in which they wheel and dive together in the air before roosting, forming extraordinary and momentary patterns in the sky, which you may easily imagine to be such odd things as a giant teapot. Shapwick Heath in the Somerset Levels attracts more than a million birds. There are various websites, including some from the RSPB, that give guidance on the best places in the country to see them. DERWENT MAY

Birthdays today

Sir Anthony Hopkins, *pictured*, actor, *The Silence of the Lambs* (1991), 82; **Zoë Billingham**, HM inspector of constabulary (eastern region), fire and rescue services (England), 55; **Sir Alex Ferguson**, former football player and manager (Manchester United, 1986-2013), 78; **Diane von Fürstenberg**, fashion designer, 73; **Robert Goodwill**, Conservative MP for Scarborough and Whitby, 63; **Matthew Hoggard**, cricketer, England (2000-08), 43; **Tess Jaray**, painter and printmaker, 82; **Martin Jones**, chief executive, Parole Board for England and Wales, 48; **Val Kilmer**, actor, *Top Gun* (1986), 60; **Sir Ben Kingsley**, actor, *Gandhi* (1982), 76; **Gong Li**, actress, *Memoirs of a Geisha* (2005), 54; **Richie McCaw**, rugby union player, New Zealand (2001-15), the most-capped Test rugby player, 39; **Sarah Miles**, actress, *The Servant* (1963), 78; **Jo O'Hara**, chief executive and chief forester, Scottish Forestry (2019), 53; **Trevor Phillips**, chairman, Equality and Human Rights Commission (2006-12), 66; **Alex Reedijk**, general director, Scottish Opera, 59; **Jean-Pierre Rives**, rugby player, France (1975-84), 67; **Eric Robson**, co-chairman, *Gardeners' Question Time*, BBC Radio 4 (1995-2019), 73; **Sir Nigel Rudd**, chairman, BBA Aviation plc, Heathrow (2007-16), 73; **Alex Salmond**, Scottish National Party MP (1987-2010, 2015-17), first minister of Scotland (2007-14), 65; **Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud**, king of Saudi Arabia, 84; **Prof Sir Jim Smith**, group leader, Francis Crick Institute, deputy chief executive and chief of strategy, Medical Research Council (2014-16), 65; **Andy Summers**, guitarist, the Police, *Every Breath You Take* (1983), 77; **Dame Dianne Thompson**, chief executive, Camelot Group (2000-14), 69; **Sir Rick Trainor**, rector, Exeter College, Oxford, principal, King's College London (2004-14), 71; **Donald Trump Jr**, executive vice-president, The Trump Organization, 42; **Sir David Walker**, chairman, Winton Capital (2015-19), Barclays Bank (2012-15), 80.

On this day

In 1973 Edward Heath's government introduced a three-day week for industry.

The last word

"Hogmanay, like all festivals, being but a bank from which we can only draw what we put in." JM Barrie, Scottish writer and dramatist, in *Sentimental Tommy* (1896).

Lost World

The Labour Party is scrambling to find a new leader but is clinging to outdated ideas of class warfare. It has to ditch not only Corbyn but also his redundant ideology

The aspiring heirs to Jeremy Corbyn's crooked crown have started to parade their credentials. The latest contender for the leadership of Labour, following Emily Thornberry and Clive Lewis, appears to be Rebecca Long Bailey, who suggests "progressive patriotism" as a potential rallying call for the party's plainly distressed membership. It is a dud slogan and does not raise much hope that the shadow secretary of state for business, energy and industrial strategy has what it takes to build anew Britain's centre left.

Ms Long Bailey's intention is plainly to find a formula that wins back the lost votes of northern England. "Progressive" suggests left-leaning, high-spending job creation. "Patriotism" signifies her understanding that Labour voters too want the Brexit process done and dusted and a new focus on the nation's economic strengths. This is not an unreasonable starting position. Even the prime minister accepted that some crucial northern Labour votes amounted to an against-the-grain loan to the Conservatives. The Labour leadership's calculated vagueness about Brexit offended; on the doorstep Mr Corbyn was toxic. Defuse Brexit, shuffle Mr Corbyn into retirement and Labour could recover some of the lost ground.

Yet Ms Long Bailey misses the true lesson of the 2019 election and clings to Corbynism as if it were a dynamic, transformational force rather than a historical oddity. In an article in *The Guardian* yesterday setting out her stall she talks of being born into Margaret Thatcher's Britain, an election victory that "precipitated an attack on our working-class communities". The truth, of course, was that the working-class vote brought Mrs Thatcher to power. Although the Labour aspirants — even Ian Lavery on the left — distance themselves from the figure of Mr Corbyn they still buy into the same politics of class resentment.

The truth, understood by the likes of Boris Johnson and his adviser Dominic Cummings, is that the nature of British political affiliation has changed. Identity politics, not allegiance to social class, is now the driving force.

For the first half of the 20th century Labour, the party of the proletariat, took on a Tory party that had transformed itself into the parliamentary wing of the emerging British middle class. Income and occupational status could predict, with a high degree of accuracy, how a person would vote. But between 2015 and 2017 those certainties collapsed. The referendum in June 2016 on Britain's membership of the European Union was a moment when two world views took shape and collided. On the one side, the cosmopolitans for whom globalisation had brought opportunity, diversity and cheap plumbers. On the other, people who used to be plumbers until priced out by competition from EU countries.

The election this month was fought on those terms, even if the surface issue was whether or not Britain would enact the decision to leave the EU. The issue, now that the immediate European question has been brought close to a resolution, is whether the culture war is the new settled state of British politics or whether class identities are reaffirmed. The Labour Party seems befuddled by the new dispensation. It has turned to the politics of class antagonism at just the moment the working class has put an Etonian into Downing Street.

The Labour hopefuls stick to Corbynist class politics because it is easier. It is easier to erect a bridge between a poorer person and a richer one, than a bridge between a person who thinks that change is progress and one who wants to turn back the clock. Leadership now depends on brokering a conversation between citizens of quite different outlooks on life. Mr Johnson has found the best answer so far but, as he embarks on his premiership proper, there is no telling how long the spell will last. The Labour Party, meanwhile, is adrift.

Accidental Risk

The US is right to punish Iranian proxies but should resist any slide to all-out war

For the first time in almost a decade American fighter jets have pounded Iranian-backed militias in Iraq and Syria. The confrontation between Washington and Tehran could turn out to be only a limited military expedition. Or, if mishandled, it could escalate quickly into an unpredictable cycle of violence. The risk of a large-scale war erupting because of miscalculation is likely to blight the coming year both in the Middle East and parts of Asia.

At least 25 fighters, including four senior commanders, were killed in strikes against five bases of a Shia group known as the Kataeb Hezbollah. The United States was responding to the killing of an American civilian contractor in a rocket attack launched last Friday on an Iraqi military base near the city of Kirkuk. Tehran furiously announced that the Trump administration would have "to accept consequences for its illegal act". Yet despite the Iranian rhetoric, US actions have been anything but trigger happy. When Iranian Revolutionary Guards shot down a US drone last June, President Trump reversed an earlier order for a punitive military strike. A cyber-attack on Iranian missile command centres was launched instead. And when Houthi rebels used Iranian-made missiles to bombard part of a Saudi oil processing plant last September, the US response was cautious and non-military. Even the latest US strike was preceded with a warning to the Iraqi government.

Since the US withdrew from the multilateral deal that seeks to curb Iran's nuclear programme, Mr Trump has concentrated on financial sanctions to pressure Tehran. Increasingly desperate, but with no intention of abandoning its attempts to spread influence across the region, Iran has resorted to provocative jabs. Its hope is that Mr Trump grows tired and withdraws his military presence completely from Iraq and Syria, the countries Iran is determined to dominate. The upshot has been an almost choreographed exchange of blows and counter-blows that stop short of war. Something similar has been under way in Washington's dealings with the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un.

A kind of peace is thus being maintained by Mr Trump's transactional unilateralism. Dictators are thinking twice before embarking on a full-scale challenge to the Trump administration, unsure as to the president's limits. It is, however, a brittle order. Iran has this week been holding joint naval exercises with Chinese and Russian vessels in the Indian Ocean. This may encourage it to become more brazen in hollowing out and controlling the Syrian, Iraqi and Lebanese governments. Israel, concerned that Iran is gearing up for war, has stepped up its air raids on the weapons depots of Iranian proxies. It recently admitted to having conducted more than 1,000 sorties over Syria.

There is a high risk, among this hectic activity, of an accidental war breaking out. While US restraint and clearly defined punitive attacks help to keep a rough-and-ready balance, allies seem to be as nervous as America's enemies that a crisis could swiftly become unmanageable. They should seek to co-ordinate more closely with Washington. Countries like Iran count on exploiting divisions between Europe and the US. When the US seeks to punish malign behaviour by rogue regimes in a proportionate way, it is surely right to demand the support of its allies.

Flights of Fantasy

Airport names could reflect some of Britain's greatest heroes and shining talent

Metropolitan airports should exude a sense of calm efficiency. They should be places where you can forget that you are about to climb into a heavy machine and defy gravity. But as gateways to the world they also need to convey, if only for a fleeting moment between the fast food outlets, a feeling of national grandeur. Paris has Charles de Gaulle and part of it even seems to be modelled on the general's magnificent nose. New York has JFK, named after a glamorous inhabitant of the White House. And the United Kingdom? It has, in Belfast, an airport named for an alcoholic footballer.

Why not be a little more ambitious? According to government papers released today, that was the proposition to the prime minister, John Major, in 1995. Heathrow, an acquaintance wrote to Mr (now Sir John) Major, was a "stupid name". Britain's biggest airport should celebrate the "greatest man of the century". Winston Churchill Airport. The prime minister liked the idea and who would not? Churchill took flying lessons as a young man and though he never got his licence would sometimes pose behind the controls of a Dakota. And like many holidaymakers trooping through customs he was in favour of fighting on the beaches.

The Churchill scheme never flew but that shouldn't stop us finding ways of honouring national and local heroes. The brilliant engineer George Stephenson should not just be associated with engine sheds. Sir Tim Berners-Lee, British inventor of the world wide web, should have his name tagged to any terminal that receives passengers from Silicon Valley so that they remember who's who. This is the moment to sign-post British talent. We can do better, surely, than George Best, John Lennon and the outlaw Robin Hood. One condition: renaming decisions should not be made by referendum. Otherwise, we are likely to end up with a Planey McPlaneface Airport.

World

Erdogan poised to send forces into Libyan conflict

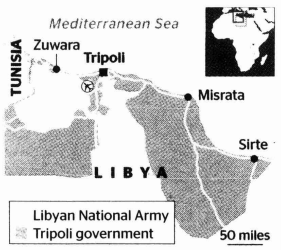
Libya

Richard Spencer
Middle East Correspondent
Hannah Lucinda Smith Istanbul

Turkey is fast-tracking a bill to send troops to Libya to prop up the Tripoli government, threatening a new full-blown proxy war in the Middle East.

The bill presented to parliament yesterday is expected to pass next week and will open the way for Ankara to give full military backing to Libya's government of national accord (GNA).

The deployment of troops will pitch Turkey and Qatar against Russia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, all three of whom oppose the GNA and are backing a rival force in the east of Libya.



The split resembles that which has devastated other countries in the region since the start of the Arab Spring, most notably Syria, where the Russian-backed government of President Assad has now almost fully overwhelmed the opposition, which was supported by Turkey and Qatar, among others.

Now President Erdogan of Turkey appears to be using what rebel manpower remains in Syria for his new military adventure. Syrian activists and researchers with contacts in the Libyan capital have confirmed that Syrian rebel forces backed by Turkey have already been sent to fight in the north African country's civil war.

Libya has been in chaos for years. Swept along with the Arab Spring, its pro-democracy protest movement overthrew the regime of Colonel Gaddafi in October 2011. Fragile prime ministers followed, one of whom fled the country, and the oil-rich nation was split along militia and tribal factions. It became a haven for pockets of Isis and one of the main routes for trafficked migrants into mainland Europe.

Khalifa Haftar, the rebel general whose Libyan National Army has seized most of eastern and southern Libya, moved on Tripoli in April. His promises of a swift and easy victory to reunite the country and "drive out Islamists and terrorists" have fallen short.

However, the UN-recognised GNA has not been able to drive him out either, and the conflict has devolved into a proxy war with Egypt and the UAE supporting Field Marshal Haftar. Moscow has also sent him the Wagner Brigade, a Russian mercenary army. They have recently begun to turn the battle for Tripoli in Marshal Haftar's favour, according to analysts.

UAE technology has also been provided to help to block the Turkish-made Bayraktar drones that Ankara has already sent to help the militias fighting on the ground for the GNA.

The secretive Turkish operation to send ethnic Turkmen Syrian fighters to Libya to bolster the GNA ground forces was leaked to the Bloomberg news agency and has been confirmed by a source close to the Syrian opposition.

"They get very high salaries and have been promised Turkish nationality," the source said. It is believed that between 100 and 300 Syrians have already landed in Tripoli, with up to 500 to be sent altogether.

They are drawn from a number of the former Free Syrian Army militias who have been recruited into a semi-formal army by Turkey, controlling an area of Syria between the Euphrates and the town of Azaz and acting as a buffer against both the regime and Kurdish forces hostile to Ankara.

The Turkish-backed Syrian opposition "government in exile", to which the militias are aligned, denied it had sent troops to Libya. However, Jalel Harchaoui, a researcher with the Clingendael Institute, who had been in Libya, said he had independently confirmed the Syrians' arrival. He said that they were a Turkish response to the Russian decision to send the Wagner Brigade.

Turkey is involved in supporting pro-Islamist factions across the Middle East against hardline, authoritarian anti-Islamist figures such as Marshal Haftar and President Sisi of Egypt, who are, in turn, supported by the UAE.

Mr Harchaoui said that Mr Erdogan was also involved in a complex choreography with President Putin of Russia. He said that the two men shared an anti-western, anti-American philosophy that meant that while they competed for influence in the Middle East their co-operation with each other was even more important to them.

Mr Erdogan had learnt from Mr Putin how to combine the use of formal military options, diplomatic aggression, proxy forces and propaganda in pursuing Turkish interests across the region, he said. The two are backing different sides in the Syrian conflict, but also co-ordinating their moves there.

"After what happened in northern Syria we must take Erdogan's promises for Libya very seriously," he said. "We need to underline the strategic value Turkey has for Russia and Russia has for Turkey. Something militarily very real is happening, but it's not going to be clean or tidy or pretty."

Behind the story

With Russia and President Putin emerging as victors in Syria, President Erdogan is looking farther afield for influence (Hannah Lucinda Smith writes). In Libya, as in Syria, the Turkish leader has backed a faction that he considers his ideological brethren.

The Tripoli-based government of national accord (GNA) is aligned with the Muslim Brotherhood, a global Islamist movement. The GNA is internationally recognised and backed by the UN, but only Turkey has come to its aid as Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar and his Libyan National Army have pushed towards Tripoli from the east.

Turkey is sending armed drones, treating wounded Libyan fighters in Istanbul hospitals and sending its co-opted Syrian rebels to the front lines. Why?

First, here is a theatre where Mr Erdogan might keep the dream of a Brotherhood ally alive. Elsewhere, notably in Egypt and Syria, the movement has suffered defeat at the hands of the old regimes. Libya could allow him to salvage regional influence.

Second, he sees this chaotic country as holding the key to his ambitions in the eastern Mediterranean, where he is trying to assert a claim over gas reserves. The maritime agreement between Tripoli and Ankara signed last month, which carves out a corridor of the sea as Turkish territory, is recognised by no one else with interests in the area. He will use it as a pretext to harass commercial ships conducting explorations around Cyprus and to send his own drilling rigs into the area.

Libya also offers a test bed for Turkey's new homegrown weapons. Mr Erdogan says his country will be self-sufficient in defence manufacturing by 2023, freeing it from any arms embargoes.

Iranian militia threatens war with US after airstrikes

Iraq

Richard Spencer

The leaders of an Iranian-backed militia targeted by US airstrikes have threatened all-out confrontation in response to the "dangerous escalation" of the conflict between two rivals vying for supremacy in the Middle East.

Kataeb Hezbollah said that 25 of its fighters had been killed and more than 50 wounded in raids on five of its bases in Iraq and Syria on Sunday. It posted gruesome videos of bodies being pulled from the wreckage of the bases, on either side of the Iraq-Syria border.

The attacks were ordered by the Pentagon in retaliation for a series of missile strikes on bases in Iraq shared by US forces and the Iraqi army, for which it has blamed the militia. The most recent, on Friday, killed an American private contractor and wounded four US and two Iraqi soldiers.

Iraq and Iran denounced the strikes yesterday. The Iraqi government warned relations with the US were at risk and the US ambassador would be summoned in Baghdad. Washington responded by accusing Iraqi authorities of having failed to "protect" US interests.

The militia also threatened to deepen the crisis. "Our battle with America and its mercenaries is now open to all possibilities," Kataeb Hezbollah said. "We have no alternative other than confrontation and nothing will prevent us from responding to this crime."

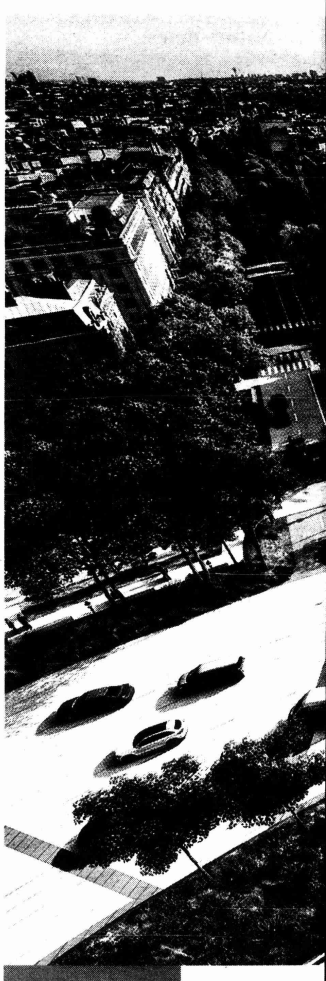
The militia is one of a string of Shia brigades supported by Iran that operate with the approval of the Iraqi authorities. Some date back to Iranian support for opposition to Saddam Hussein during the Iran-Iraq war of 1980-88, but Kataeb Hezbollah is thought to have been founded after the US invasion in 2003. Its leader, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, works closely with Major-General Qassem Soleimani, head of the al-Quds Force, the international arm of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard.

Kataeb Hezbollah said that 25 of its fighters had been killed in the air raids

More than 5,000 US troops are based in Iraq, helping the fight against what remains of Islamic State and as a bulwark against Iran.

Adel Abdul-Mahdi, the Iraqi prime minister who is notionally commander-in-chief of all Iraqi forces, including militias, said he had been given 30 minutes' warning of the US action by Mark Esper, Mr Trump's defence secretary. In a sign of his impotence when caught between the US and Iran, he said he asked Mr Esper to call off the attack but to no avail. He seems not to have passed on the warning to Kataeb Hezbollah. He said the attack was a "dangerous escalation that threatened the security of Iraq and the region".

Leading article, page 25



Champs-Élysées traders want to create world's loveliest street

In 1717 Antoine Watteau painted elegant Parisians lounging in gardens by the Champs-Élysées (Adam Sage writes).

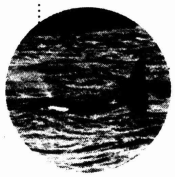
Such scenes could become customary again if a €300 million (£256 million) plan to restore the avenue to its former glory wins the backing of the next mayor.

The scheme has been unveiled by a committee representing traders on the Champs-Élysées, many of whom are concerned that the street's modern-day tackiness could depress the value of their businesses.

Properties on the avenue cost an average of €45,238 per square metre, and the insurance companies that own the buildings and the luxury goods shops that occupy them, such as Louis Vuitton and Bulgari, would be happy for it to look like a Watteau tableau.

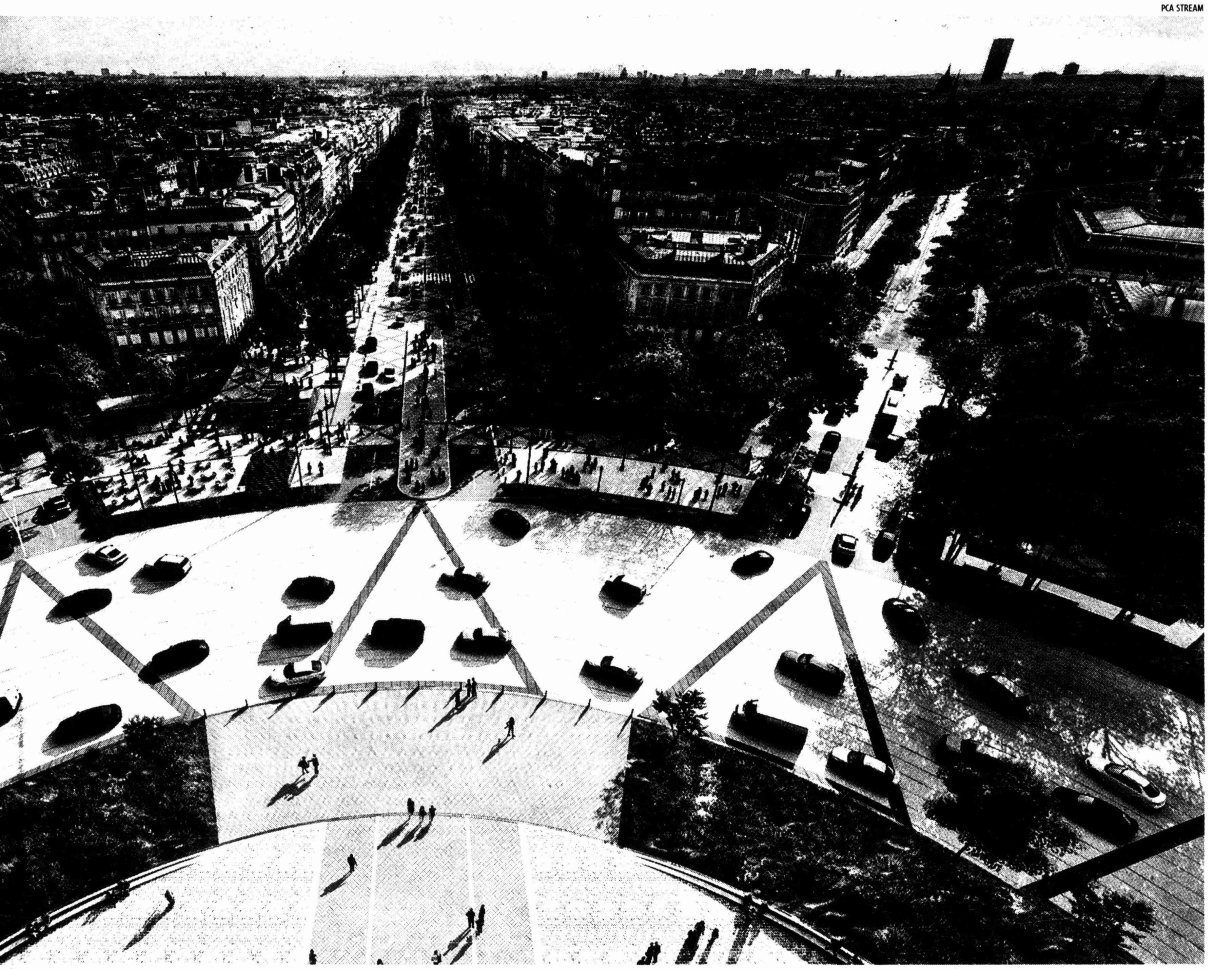
At present it does not. On average 64,000 cars use the street every day and it is among the capital's most

Mystery of orcas that swam to Sicily
Page 29



Bushfires reach the edge of Melbourne
Page 31

PCA STREAM



Fewer cars, a quieter road surface and more Parisians on the street are among plans drawn up by Philippe Chiambaretta

polluted roads. It is noisy too, generally topping 75 decibels because of the traffic.

Most Parisians avoid it, according to a study that found that of the estimated 100,000 pedestrians who used the Champs-Élysées every day, 53 per cent were tourists, 22 per cent worked in the area, 2 per cent had homes on the avenue and only 4 per cent were Parisians out for a stroll.

As far as the city's residents are concerned, the Champs-Élysées has become synonymous with mass tourism, overpriced drinks and the violence of the yellow-vest protesters who ransacked shops there a year ago.

The gardens next to the avenue that feature in Watteau's painting have also been deserted. They attract only a fortieth of the visitors to Parc Monceau near by.

Jean-Noël Reinhardt, chairman of the Champs-Élysées Committee, said: "We are not sure that the Champs-Élysées is the most beautiful avenue in the world any more. But we want it to be the most beautiful avenue in the world."

His committee entrusted Philippe Chiambaretta, a Parisian architect, with drawing up a plan to give the Champs-Élysées a facelift, which it last had in 1993.

Mr Chiambaretta hopes to turn back the tide of history. He said that exhaust fumes had progressively enveloped the Champs-Élysées ever since the first car dealership was set up there in 1899, when Parisians would drive up and down the avenue to show off their wealth and modernity.

Mr Chiambaretta hopes to renew the vision of André Le Nôtre, the landscape architect and principal gardener of Louis XIV, who created a tree-lined promenade. The architect wants to reduce the number of lanes from four to two, install a quieter road surface, widen the pavements, shade café terraces from the sun by creating a green roof formed by the leaves of plane trees and persuade the owners of shops, cafés and restaurants to harmonise their frontages.

He also wants to bring Parisians back to the gardens, which would be renovated if his plan gets the go-ahead. Artwork and children's playgrounds would be installed, along with sports equipment and kiosks serving good food.

Mr Chiambaretta would like to revamp the Place de l'Étoile, renamed Place Charles de Gaulle in 1970, which has the Arc de Triomphe in its midst. In winter it could host an ice rink, he said, and in summer a sandy beach and a swimming pool.

Mr Reinhardt said that the plans had been presented to the main candidates in next year's mayoral election. They include Anne Hidalgo, the socialist incumbent, and Benjamin Griveaux, who is standing for President Macron's La République en Marche party.

All were broadly supportive, he said, and he is confident that the renovation will become reality, at least in part.

Bloomberg on track to spend $400m by Super Tuesday

United States
Will Pavia New York

Michael Bloomberg's promise to spend "whatever it takes" from his fortune to secure the Democratic nomination has him on track to invest $400 million in advertising over the next three months.

The spending spree, unprecedented even by the standards of US politics, has produced a torrent of TV commercials and digital adverts in key states.

It is set to rise further, with the media mogul launching an advertising blitz before March 3, when Democrats in 14 states will vote on "Super Tuesday".

In North Carolina his adverts appear 36 times a day, according to Advertising Analytics, which said Mr Bloomberg had caused a 22 per cent rise in the market for TV advertising nationwide.

In Houston, where his campaign is said to have spent $1 million, prices for advertising space had risen by 45 per cent, prompting the *New York Post* to call him "a one-man stimulus package".

Some of his rivals have accused him of trying to buy the nomination, casting him as a symptom of the wealth inequality they would try to correct, but Mr Bloomberg said his fortune made him immune to outside influences.

The Democratic contender Michael Bloomberg has been accused of trying to buy the nomination

A recent poll showed that his support among Democrats had risen two points since he entered the race, to about 7 per cent, putting him in fifth place.

He and his team also say their advertising helps the party's prospects in battleground states where President Trump has been campaigning steadily, but where Democratic candidates have been largely absent as they focus on Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, the early states that usually make or break a campaign.

One of his first commercials features voters in Michigan and Pennsylvania bemoaning the fact that their party is still absent from the fight in the very places where it mattered in 2016.

This approach would suit the Bloomberg campaign, which has decided to ignore the early states.

"The Bloomberg campaign has basically no ground game," Jörg Spenkuch, of the Kellogg School of Management, an expert in political advertising, said. Mr Bloomberg "is using strategies that play to his unique advantage, which is his budget," he said.

Professor Spenkuch said the advertising could prove helpful to the Democratic party, even if it did not choose Mr Bloomberg as its nominee. "If you look at the content of the ads, they are essentially anti-Trump ads," he said.

Last night Mr Bloomberg tweeted that as president we would turn the East Room in the White House into an open plan office, where he would sit with his team. "I'll use the Oval Office for some official functions — never for tweeting" he added.

World

FBI veteran shot church killer

United States
Jacqui Goddard Miami

Footage has emerged of the moment a gunman opened fire inside a Texas church and armed members of the congregation jumped up and shot him.

The gunman was killed within six seconds of pulling out a semi-automatic weapon and killing two people at West Freeway Church of Christ in White Settlement.

Officials identified the gunman as Keith Kinnunen, 43. They said that his motive was under investigation.

Tiffany Wallace, whose father Anton, a deacon, was shot dead while serving Communion, said: "I ran towards my dad and the last thing I remember is him asking for oxygen and I was just holding him, telling him I loved him and that he was going to make it."

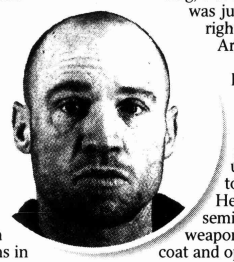
Talking to the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, she added: "How can someone so evil, the Devil, step into the church and do this?"

Both Anton Wallace, 64, and the second victim, Richard White, 67, were part of a volunteer security team inside the church. Mr White had been keeping an eye on Kinnunen as his appearance aroused some concerns, and was the first to draw a gun on the attacker.

WEST FREEWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST/AP

Worshippers dived for cover but security volunteers killed the gunman, Keith Kinnunen, circled and below, within six seconds

Jack Wilson, 71, a former FBI agent who used to run a firearms training academy, was also part of the security team. He delivered a single shot to fatally wound the gunman.



Their heroism was unparalleled, Dan Patrick, the lieutenant-governor of Texas, said. "This team responded quickly and within six seconds the shooting was over," he added.

State legislation allowing licensed gun owners to carry firearms in places of worship was signed into law in Texas on September 1.

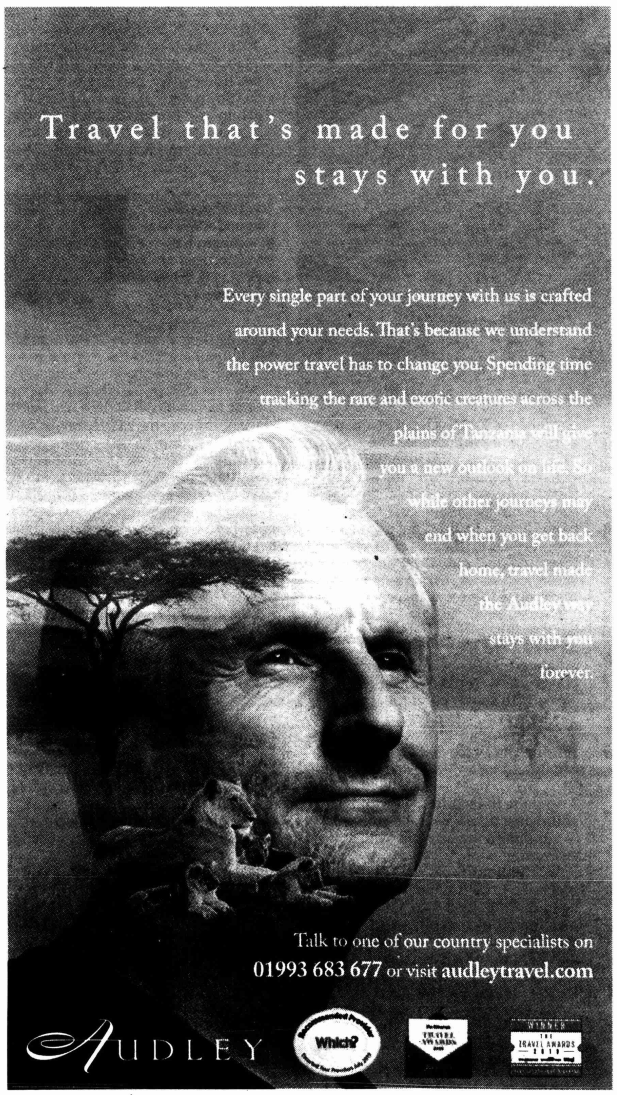
Isabel Arreola, 38, dived for cover along with her husband, who covered their seven-year-old daughter with his body to protect her from the bullets.

The family had been sitting in the row in front of the gunman earlier in the service but moved after taking Communion because they felt unnerved by him. He appeared to be wearing a disguise including a fake beard and had caught the attention of Mr White.

"While he was there I couldn't sing, I couldn't pray. There was just something not right about him," Mrs Arreola said.

The church was livestreaming its Sunday morning service and footage shows the gunman standing up and speaking to a church official. He then pulled a semi-automatic weapon from under his coat and opened fire.

Screams rang out and most worshippers dropped to the floor, cowering under the pews, while others jumped up and drew weapons. Mrs Arreola said: "I was so surprised because I did not know that so many in the church were armed."



Terrorist suspect 'swore allegiance to Baghdadi'

Russia
Tom Parfitt Moscow

Russia's FSB spy agency has said that a terrorist suspect who is believed to have planned an attack on civilians in St Petersburg had pledged allegiance to Islamic State.

Two men were held on suspicion of preparing an attack in a crowded part of the city over the new year holiday after a tip-off from American intelligence agencies.

The FSB released a video that it said had been seized in the suspects' apartment. It allegedly shows one of them swearing a vow to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the Islamic State leader who was killed by US forces in October.

The man in the video wore a mask with only his eyes showing. He spoke in Arabic with a Russian accent, reports said. In a telephone call, President Putin thanked President Trump "for information transmitted through the channels of US special services that has helped thwart terrorist acts in Russia", the Kremlin said.

Footage published by Russian media showed FSB officers detaining two men in a wintry street and the stairwell of an apartment building on December 27. The team is believed to have confiscated ammunition, knives and cables. An operative also showed a camera, a black item of clothing, a black cap and a pair of Ray-Ban sunglasses in a pouch, presumably a disguise.

The FSB said that the two men had been caught with evidence that they were preparing an attack and had confessed. Neither suspects was named. Both are Russian citizens.

Pompeo to hold talks with Zelensky in Kiev

United States Mike Pompeo, the secretary of state, will make a diplomatic tour next month that will include Ukraine, the country at the centre of the impeachment process against President Trump, it was announced yesterday. Mr Pompeo, who will meet President Zelensky, will be the most senior US official to visit Ukraine since a scandal over a phone call between Mr Trump and Mr Zelensky erupted in September. Mr Trump is accused of withholding $400 million in aid to Ukraine in an attempt to push it into investigating his political rival Joe Biden. He denies this and faces a trial in the Senate, possibly next month. *(AFP)*

State agents to hang over teacher's death

Sudan A court has sentenced 27 members of the national intelligence service to be hanged over the killing of a teacher held in detention. Ahmed al-Khair's death became a rallying point during 16 weeks of protests that led to the overthrow of President Bashir. Officials had said that Mr Khair died of poisoning but a state inquiry ruled that he had been beaten to death. *(Reuters)*

Patient burnt to death during cancer surgery

Romania A patient died after being set on fire while undergoing surgery in Bucharest, where hospitals have dilapidated equipment and a shortage of doctors. The 66-year-old woman, who had pancreatic cancer, suffered burns to 40 per cent of her body when surgeons at Floreasca Hospital used an electrical scalpel along with an alcohol-based disinfectant. *(AFP)*

Kim talking tough as nuclear deadline looms

North Korea Kim Jong-un called for "positive and offensive measures for fully ensuring the sovereignty and security of the country", with the deadline he set for denuclearisation talks with the United States running out tonight. The North Korean leader convened a meeting of the ruling party's central committee over the weekend as tensions with Washington increased. *(Reuters)*

Women bodybuilders perform under cover

Bangladesh The country's first bodybuilding championship for women has been held in Dhaka but there were no bare muscles on show. Nearly 90 per cent of the population is Muslim and the 30 contestants adhered to a strict dress code, striking their poses in body-hugging outfits. Awhona Rahman, 19, the winner, said her brother, who runs a fitness centre, had always encouraged her. *(AFP)*

Spain to expel Bolivian envoys as row deepens

Spain The Spanish government is to expel three Bolivian diplomats in a spat with its former colony. Jeanine Añez, Bolivia's interim president, had said Bolivia would expel Mexico's ambassador and two Spanish diplomats, accusing Spanish embassy staff of trying to infiltrate the Mexican mission in the Bolivian capital, La Paz, to try to extract an aide to Evo Morales, the former president. *(AFP)*

Shark mauls woman tourist during night swim in Seychelles

Seychelles
Charles Bremner Paris

A French woman was in a stable condition in the Seychelles last night after a shark mauled one of her arms as she swam in the dark in shallow waters.

The tourist, 45, who has not been named, was flown by helicopter to hospital where she underwent surgery. She was swimming at 7pm off the Amitié beach on Praslin, the second largest island of the Indian Ocean archipelago. "Her life is not in danger," Dominique Mas, the French ambassador, said after visiting the hospital.

Local authorities halted swimming from nearby beaches and cordoned off the area after the incident, which raised alarm at the peak of the tourist season.

Shark attacks have become frequent in La Réunion, the French island 1,100 miles to the south, but they are rare in the Seychelles. The last fatal incidents were in August 2011 when sharks killed two tourists, one British and one French, off Lazio bay, also on Praslin.

Ian Redmond, who was on his honeymoon, died of blood loss after a shark took an arm and part of his left leg while his wife watched from the beach. The French tourist, 36, had been killed two weeks earlier at the same spot. After those attacks the authorities banned the disposal of organic material at sea and warned tourists to swim only in shallow waters. They also affirmed their commitment to environmental norms protecting sharks.

The previous fatal shark attack in the archipelago was in 1963. Local tourist agencies describe Seychelles sharks as relatively friendly. The French embassy in Victoria, the capital, warns visitors of local thieves and pirates offshore but does not mention sharks.

Local experts suggested that the shark in Sunday's attack, whose species has not been identified, may have been attracted inshore by cooler than usual waters.

In La Réunion the attacks, mostly by bull and tiger sharks, have multiplied apparently because of a boom in development and volcanic events. Both are believed to entice sharks closer to shore because there is more human activity in the water and because volcanoes can raise the temperature of waters that the creatures would normally swim in.

Eleven people have died in 24 shark attacks off beaches there since 2011. In January this year a fisherman died from his injuries after a shark tore off his leg and a surfer was killed in May. Last month a hand and a wedding ring belonging to Richard Martyn Turner, 44, of Edinburgh, were found in the stomach of a tiger shark days after he disappeared while swimming in a La Réunion lagoon.

Last week two arms and a bracelet were found in the stomach of a tiger shark caught off La Réunion. They were identified as belonging to a local man who went missing while swimming this month.

La Réunion has banned surfing and swimming on much of its shoreline and installed shark fences.

ITAR-TASS NEWS AGENCY/ALAMY

Strictly Strauss **At the Snow White Ball in Moscow audiences are treated to a night of waltzes and polkas by Johann Strauss**

Odyssey takes orcas from Iceland to Sicily

Italy
Tom Kington Rome

A family of Icelandic killer whales that stunned experts by swimming 3,000 miles to the waters off Genoa in Italy before Christmas have reappeared near Sicily feasting on tuna.

The three whales playfully followed a fisherman, Simone Vartuli, for ten minutes in the Strait of Messina separating the island from mainland Italy, where orcas have not been seen before.

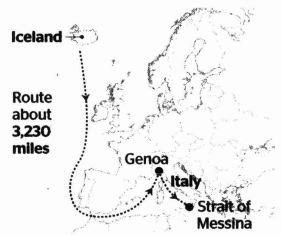
"They were playing a game with me, it was incredible and historic," Mr Vartuli, 25, who filmed the encounter, said. He spotted the pod a second time while scanning the sea from high ground in Messina yesterday. "I was shouting so loud I think I scared people."

The sighting is the latest episode in the mysterious Mediterranean odyssey of the pod, which was a familiar sight off Iceland before vanishing then appearing outside Genoa on December 1.

Marie Mrusczok, founder of the Icelandic conservation group Orca Guardians, said: "If we can fully confirm the same pod has now swum another 500 miles from Genoa to reach Sicily it would beat a record for the longest known migration set by an orca that swam from Canada to the Azores."

She helped Italian experts to identify the pod from their unique markings.

The trip has come at a heavy price for the family of five, which is headed by an 18-year-old, 6.5m male named Riptide. During the nearly three-week stay in Genoa, the adult female swam for days holding a dead calf of less than a year old in her mouth, as if refusing to accept its death. Experts suspect that it died of illness and noted that one of the other two young whales appeared emaciated. By the time the pod reached Sicily, that whale was missing, suggesting it too died of illness.



In an online poll the mother's growing legion of fans have meanwhile named her Zena, the old name in dialect for Genoa.

"We believe Zena also lost one of her young back in Iceland, so she has suffered," Giulia Calogero, head of the Italian marine charity Menkab, said. Killer whales hunt off Gibraltar but rarely venture as far into the Mediterranean as Italy. The last time an orca was seen off Genoa was in 1985.

Clara Monaco, of Marecamp, a conservation group, hoped that the pod would return to Iceland. "It's possible they are loading up on tuna before turning back, and I really hope so because the risk of collision in the crowded Strait of Messina is high," she said.

Ms Calogero added: "If they are lost and have already seen two young die they will be under a lot of stress."

Poland accuses Russia of war lies

Poland
Tom Parfitt Moscow

The Polish prime minister has accused President Putin of lying repeatedly about his country's role in the Second World War.

The spat began this month when Mr Putin defended the Nazi-Soviet Pact of 1939 and accused Poland of placating Hitler and taking part in the partition of Czechoslovakia.

The Russian leader also called the Polish ambassador to Germany at the time an "antisemitic pig" who was "in complete solidarity with Hitler" in his anti-Jewish sentiment.

Mateusz Morawiecki, 51, Poland's prime minister, responded to Mr Putin, 67, on Sunday, saying he "has lied about Poland on numerous occasions, and he has always done it deliberately". He said Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union had started the war by engaging in a "joint defeat of independent Poland".

The United States waded into the row yesterday as Georgette Mosbacher, the US ambassador to Warsaw, tweeted: "Dear President Putin, Hitler and Stalin colluded to start WWII. That is a fact. Poland was a victim of this horrible conflict".

In a reference to its secret protocol, Mr Morawiecki argued that the Nazi-Soviet Pact was not a "non-aggression" agreement but an alliance to carve up Europe and a "prologue to unspeakable crimes ... on both sides of the line".

Before Hitler broke the pact and invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941, Moscow provided him with supplies that facilitated his war machine and the slaughter of Jews, the prime minister added. He pointed to the Katyn massacre of 20,000 Polish officers and the murder of ethnic Poles in the Soviet Union as evidence of Moscow's aggression.

Mr Morawiecki said that Mr Putin's comments were designed to distract from Russia's present failures on the world stage, such as its inability to secure an easing of European Union sanctions, the ban on its athletes for doping and the delay of its Nordstream 2 gas pipeline project.

"The Russian leader is well aware that his accusations have nothing to do with reality, and that in Poland there are no monuments to Hitler or Stalin. Such monuments stood here only when erected by the aggressors and perpetrators — the Third Reich and Soviet Russia," he said.

President Putin's comments "have nothing to do with reality", said Mateusz Morawiecki

Mr Putin's comments began at his annual press conference on December 19 when he was asked for his response to a September resolution of the European parliament that said the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop pact "paved the way for the outbreak of World War II". He argued that the Soviet Union was the last country in Europe to sign a non-aggression pact with Nazi Germany after other powers had appeased it.

"Stalin did not stain himself with direct contact with Hitler whereas the French and British leaders met with him and signed some documents," he said. He claimed that Soviet forces entered Poland only "after the Polish government lost control over their armed forces".

A day later, in a speech to leaders of former Soviet states, Mr Putin lambasted the "Munich Betrayal" in which Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia was not opposed by the West.

"I have the impression that today's Europe wants to know nothing about it, it is being deliberately hushed up while they try to shift the blame, including for starting the Second World War, from the Nazis to the Communists," he said.

World

Hope for family divided by Isis cruelty

THE TIMES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Richard Spencer Mosul and Dohuk

After being kidnapped by Islamic State and forced to fight for the caliphate, Ayman, a 17-year-old Yazidi boy, is now waiting to go to Canada. In Germany, meanwhile, three of the remaining sons of Dhanoun al-Tai, 60, have little reason to return to Iraq, where their mother, their uncle and two of their brothers were shot dead by Isis.

Basil al-Badawy, a 70-year-old retired doctor in Mosul who survived Isis's tyranny, wonders whether he will ever see any of his children again. All four are in Sweden and Norway.

The trail of refugees from the Middle East to the West was one of the starkest reminders of the world's fragility in the decade now ending. These are the faces of that story.

Ayman was 12 and living in the town of Kocho, in Sinjar, the dusty, remote centre of the Yazidi community in northwest Iraq, when Isis arrived in 2014. Thousands of Yazidi men were lined up and shot.

His mother and twin sister were sold in "marriage" to Isis fighters. He has not seen them since.

Ayman and his brother Amin, then aged ten, became "cubs of the caliphate". They were beaten, forced to learn the Koran, trained in the use of Kalashnikovs and sent to war.

Amin was too young to be of much use. Ayman, though, 14 by the time he finished his training, served in three major Isis battles: for Raqqa, in Hama, when Isis attempted a breakout to Syria's northwest, and finally in Baghouz, Isis's last stand.

He attempts the nonchalance of a teenager as he sits with his grandfather in the unfinished house near Dohuk in northern Iraq that is their shelter, but his eyes shy away. He was not afraid at first. "I was used to the violence inside Isis," he says. When the firing started, it was a different matter. "I was just a kid."

After two years of being moved around northern and eastern Syria, he ended up in the back lines of the last Isis pocket near Baghouz, before being injured in a coalition airstrike. He was in a makeshift hospital when it was captured by the western-backed Syrian Democratic Forces and identified as a Yazidi. He was still only 16.

Ayman, 17, has family waiting for him in Canada after being found in a refuge in Syria

After security checks, he was moved to a refuge in northern Syria, a home over several months for scores of rescued Yazidi children. That night, staff handed him a telephone: they had found his mother. "I was surprised," he says, bluntly. "She was in Canada." He is reluctant to describe how he felt about this revelation, knowing that a large family awaits him there.

Along with his mother, sister and brother, who also escaped Isis's last battle, his uncle and aunt and their families are also there, among thousands of other Yazidis granted asylum by the Canadian authorities.

The route taken by Mr al-Tai's sons was less conventional but far more common. When Isis seized Mosul, their two brothers were "executed" for being policemen — a fate filmed, put on YouTube and watched round the world.

Fearing for their own lives, they escaped to Syria, then Turkey, and took the boats to Greece. Now they have asylum in Germany. "We all love that woman Merkel now," Mr al-Tai says. "More than our own government, anyway." He has two younger sons who are building labourers in Mosul. They are trying to support themselves, their father, their widowed sisters-in-law and several nephews, nieces and cousins.

Mr al-Tai hobbles around the tiny flat that he was given by a charity after his own home was destroyed in the recapture of Mosul and which he shares with his younger children. Injured as a conscript in the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s, life came full circle when he was blown up in 2014 by an Isis car bomb.

Dr Badawy's children come from a much higher social class. One is a doctor, two more are engineering graduates, the fourth a student. But they too took the boats from Turkey to Greece, before ending up in Scandinavia. Now Dr Badawy tries in vain to secure a visa to visit them. "All I want is to see my children," he says. "This makes my wife very sad too."

He wants them to return, but it is hard for Mr al-Tai and Dr Badawy to tell people who now have a future to come back to cities where their brothers were murdered.

Dr Badawy holds the US invasion of 2003 in particular contempt, but he, too, fought and saw friends die in the Iran-Iraq war and now lives under a government that is still corrupt and often heedless of the threat of further conflict.

Both men were put in touch with War Child, a British charity that is being supported by *The Times* Christmas Appeal and which tries to heal the scars of conflict. It operates across Iraq and is building schools and rebuilding the lives of young people. It has just expanded to Sinjar, still in ruins four years after being recaptured from Isis — the reason why Ayman and his grandfather cannot return home.

It may be too late to give Ayman a future in the place where he grew up. In Canada, the comforts of the West await, along with the education he has been deprived of.

But the 50 per cent of Iraq's population that are under 20 and remain in the country desperately need some hope that they too will not be left behind by the modern world, or subject to the same horrors that have darkened their parents' entire lives.

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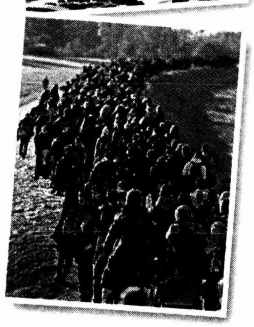

Dhanoun al-Tai, above, lost his wife and two sons to Isis. Three other sons fled to Germany where they were given asylum

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Winds drive bushfires to the suburbs of Melbourne

Australia

Bernard Lagan Sydney

Flames reached the suburbs of Melbourne yesterday as high temperatures and winds fanned huge bushfires and sent tens of thousands of people fleeing.

Several houses were damaged by a fast-moving bushfire, one of 35 burning across the state of Victoria.

Residents were told to close doors, turn off air-conditioning and shelter in rooms with two exits. If their home caught fire the advice was to move to ground that had already burnt.

Ange Vlahopoulos, who lives in the north of Melbourne, watched as the fire approached his home. "The fire was way in the distance this morning. Then the wind just picked up and out of nowhere the whole area over the road was on fire. Before you knew it there was smoke everywhere and flames," he told *The Age*.

In the Blue Mountains west of Sydney a kangaroo suffered badly burnt paws

Hundreds of people, including holidaymakers, are believed to be trapped by approaching fires in Mallacoota, on the coast 500 miles east of Melbourne.

Samantha Corbett told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation that she was on holiday there with her family when an emergency warning was issued. Hundreds congregated by the sea to avoid the flames. "We just heard that the plan is that firefighters will set up trucks around us at the wharf [and] spray it to try to keep us safe," she said.

Darryl Burns, the ranger in charge of fire operations in East Gippsland, told a town meeting: "The concern is a big fire could be coming, but it will be coming in the middle of the night."

Other homes were also destroyed by fire in South Australia and Tasmania. In New South Wales, the most populous state, a firefighter was killed when his truck turned over in a blazing forest near Albury. He was the third firefighter to die this month.

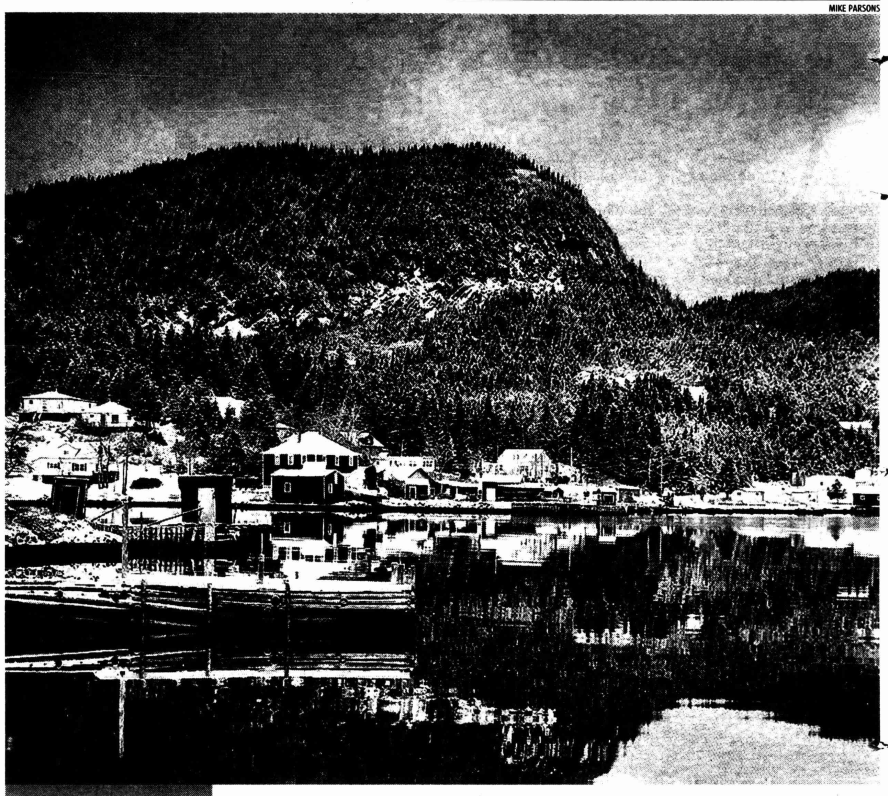
Weather forecasters said that the temperatures of up to 43C that had contributed to catastrophic fire conditions would hit New South Wales today. Almost 1,000 homes have been destroyed in the state.

Officials are comparing the forecast for Victoria to Black Saturday in February 2009, when 173 people were killed in the country's worst bushfires. The authorities said that if 32,000 people did not leave beaches and forests in Victoria, firefighters would struggle to reach them. Many did leave, causing traffic jams, but thousands chose to stay and were trapped when the main road was effectively closed by smoke.

Andrew Crisp, the emergency management commissioner for Victoria, said that columns of fire were creating their own weather systems. "There's lightning coming out of these columns," he said. "It is unpredictable, it's dangerous out there."

Mr Crisp said some fire fronts stretched more than 620 miles. In Tasmania, the temperature was more than double the summer average because of air blowing in from the mainland.

People in Sydney planning to celebrate New Year's Eve have been told to take care as high temperatures and smoke haze in the day give way to a "blustery" southerly change in the evening, before the firework displays.


MIKE PARSONS

Couple opt to stay behind as islanders are resettled

The village in Newfoundland is opting for resettlement in return for a government payout under a scheme offered to remote areas.

Once the other 52 residents have gone Mr and Mrs Parsons, 53 and 42, will be alone with their dog, Trinity. They have solar panels, a propane heater, a snowmobile, half a dozen boats, a well, medicine and tinned food. The government estimates that it will save C$20 million over two decades by resettling for between C$250,000 and C$270,000 per household.

Residents say that they have seen the collapse of the cod and snow crab industries and the erosion of their society. The school shut last year after two years with no pupils.

The electricity is being cut off, the ferry has stopped, all services vital to modern life are ending (Charlie Mitchell writes). The residents of Little Bay Islands, a village in Canada's remote east, have left their homes to head for the mainland.

All except two. Michael and Georgina Parsons have spent two years and C$50,000 (£29,000) preparing for today, when they will be cut off from the rest of the country.

The shop also closed.

"We're not nervous. I don't know if that's because we're just plain crazy or what not," Mr Parsons told CTV in October. "It's always been a dream of mine to be here for the long haul." Two months later, and with reality sinking in, he said they may reconsider when "we have been here by ourselves for a while".

Critics say the resettlement scheme, under which hundreds of communities have been moved since the 1950s, is not without social costs. Raymond Blake, a history professor at the University of Regina, was ten when his family was resettled in 1969. "We say my grandmother died in part from a broken heart from having to leave," he said.

Scientist jailed for altering embryos

China

Wendy Tang Beijing

A scientist who claimed to have created the world's first genetically edited babies has been jailed for three years in China as it emerged that his team were involved in the birth of a third child.

He Jiankui, 35, was convicted of practising medicine without a licence and fined three million yuan (£330,000) by a court in the southern city of Shenzhen, the official Xinhua news agency said. Two other researchers, Zhang Renli and Qin Jinzhou, received lesser sentences and fines.

He shocked the scientific world when he announced in November last year that he had altered the embryos of twin girls who had been born that month. Yesterday it was revealed that a third baby born to a different mother had also been gene-edited. Their identities remain secret.

The scientist said that he had used a tool called Crispr to try to disable a gene that allows the Aids virus to enter a cell in an attempt to give the girls the ability to resist the infection.

The tool has been tested in adults to treat diseases but many scientists denounced the experiment as medically unnecessary and unethical because any genetic changes could be passed down to future generations.

After He's work came to light experts called for a five-year ban on methods of altering the DNA of human eggs, sperm or embryos in ways that could pass the changes on amid fears that the practice could "divide humans into subspecies".

The scientist disappeared from public view shortly after announcing his work at a Hong Kong conference.

Professor Robin Lovell-Badge, of the Francis Crick Institute and a member of the World Health Organisation's committee looking at governance relating to human genome editing, said: "We had been speculating as to whether or not the 'third baby' had been born. We now know this to be the case and I hope he or she is a happy and healthy normal baby — which is how they should be treated. They all deserve privacy."

Julian Hitchcock, a lawyer at Bristows specialising in the regulation of human genome editing, said: "By common consensus, He Jiankui's interventions went well beyond what was ethically acceptable."

The lack of transparency around He's case "set a worrying precedent for the treatment of those Chinese scientists who do behave ethically but who are out of political favour", he added.

New year warning over 'weapons-grade' fireworks

Italy

Tom Kington Rome

Italians are being warned about highly dangerous "weapons-grade" fireworks being sold on the black market before tonight's celebrations.

The rockets, called Quota 100 after this year's reforms of Italy's pension system, had "devastating power", police said.

"These products are nothing other than military ordnance and as such must not be used, absolutely," Michele Landi, head of the police bomb squad in Salerno, south of Naples, said.

Despite an annual toll of lost hands and fingers, occasional deaths and a partially collapsed house in 2014, Neapolitans rush to buy dangerous and illegal fireworks for New Year's Eve.

The city's illegal vendors have previously been inspired by economic headlines to name fireworks. In 2011 they devised the Spread — which was reckoned to cause damage over a 200m range and was named in honour of bond market fluctuations as Italy faced economic meltdown.

Italy's tax police said yesterday that they had raided the home of a manufacturer in Puglia and found 1.5 tonnes of explosive powder, enough to blow up his house and those of his neighbours.

In Milan police who tracked online offers found that manufacturers were making appointments to sell illegal fireworks on street corners.

Elephants pack trunks and return from exile

A huge herd of elephants is roaming an area of Nigeria ravaged by a jihadist insurgency in the first reported sighting of the animals in a decade (Graeme Baker writes).

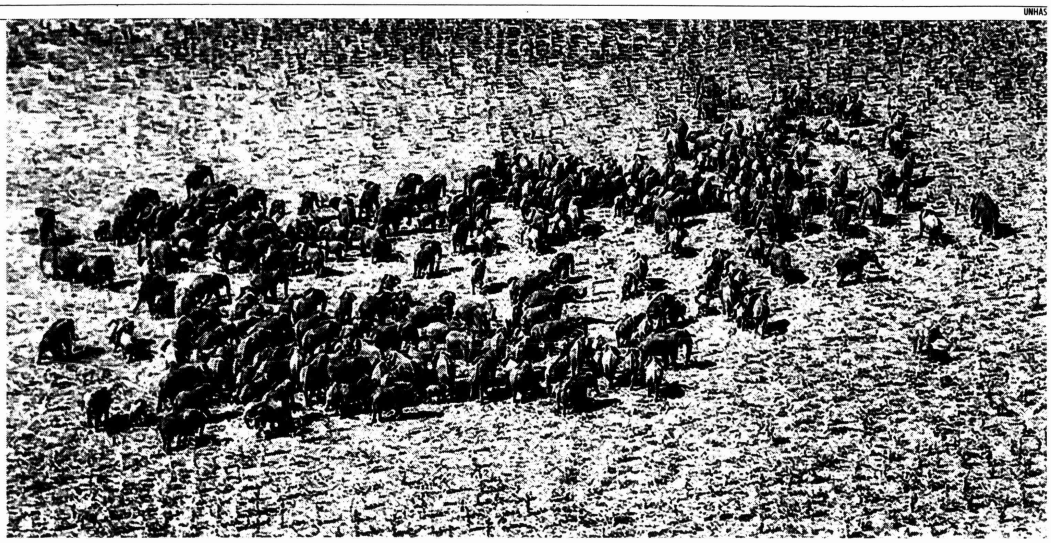
A UN helicopter spotted 250 to 300 elephants in the Sambisa Forest nature reserve, Borno state, where Boko Haram has waged a ten-year campaign, killing 20,000 people and forcing two million to flee.

Elephants and other large animals all but disappeared from Borno as fighting intensified and jihadists set up camp in Sambisa, and poaching reduced the country's elephant population to about 300.

Kabiru Wanori, Borno's environment commissioner, said the sighting "shows peace is slowly re-emerging".

Tunde Marokinyo, the co-founder of the Africa Nature Investors NGO, said it was an exciting moment. "The sighting of this herd would seem to be about 250-300, which means that Nigeria's population has effectively doubled."

UNHAS



President must reveal looted wealth to receive IMF loan

Equatorial Guinea

Graeme Baker Cape Town

He is the world's longest serving president, whose family has been accused of squandering his nation's oil wealth on jets and sports cars as its people struggle in poverty. Now, as Equatorial Guinea faces ruin after years of mismanagement and alleged corruption, President Obiang could be forced to come clean on the full extent of his regime's plundering over 40 years.

Mr Obiang, 77, has agreed a $283 million loan with the International Monetary Fund after a slump in oil prices and mounting debts from a building spree in the capital, Malabo, shrank the economy by a third.

Lenders have insisted that as well as economic reforms the president must agree to pass an anti-corruption law that compels him to declare all assets. Funding will depend on its progress.

Lisandro Abrego, the IMF head in the central African nation, said declarations should begin by the second half of next year and that this "will apply to all senior government officials".

Mr Abrego added that state-owned oil and gas companies would be audited and all contracts were to be made public. Human rights groups fear that despite these conditions the loans will still be diverted from measures designed to stimulate the economy to prop up the lifestyles of the leaders.

Mr Obiang's son spent state cash on supercars

The value of the IMF package equates to what Teodorin Obiang, the vice-president and one of the president's 42 children, spent between 2000 and 2011, according to a US justice department investigation. In 2014 he agreed to hand over properties worth more than $30 million and a dozen luxury cars. Mr Obiang, 51, was allowed to keep a private jet and Michael Jackson memorabilia, including a crystal glove. He was later given a three-year suspended prison sentence and a $35 million fine in France for buying mansions, sports cars and jewellery with public money.

In September the Swiss authorities raised $27 million by auctioning cars seized from the vice-president. He denies any wrongdoing.

Sarah Saadoun, of Human Rights Watch, said: "An anti-corruption law that includes asset declarations has been in place since 2004 but it has never been implemented. Whether the IMF can force through concrete measures on an unwilling government to tackle corruption remains to be seen."

Jeffrey Smith, of Vanguard Africa, a pro-democracy group, told the BBC World Service that the money was being "wasted on the lavish lifestyles of a kleptocrat ruling family at the expense of its citizens. This country does not need this money."

Disgraced bishop of bling lavished $4.6m on home

United States

Jacqui Goddard Miami

A Catholic bishop spent $4.6 million of church funds on enhancing his home with features such as a bar where he drank Cointreau from a teacup and a climate-controlled wine cellar stocked with Dom Perignon champagne, a report concluded.

Michael Bransfield was Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia, from 2005 until allegations of sexual and financial misdeeds forced his retirement last year. He also splashed out on a dining table costing $20,000 and a further $697,000 on luxuries such as Persian rugs for a second home in which he never lived.

The expenditures were detailed in a report completed in February by investigators acting for the Vatican. *The Washington Post* has now published them in redacted form after church officials failed to indicate whether they would make the report public.

"It was always, this or that is what the bishop wants," Jim Baller, the construction manager who oversaw the renovations, told the newspaper. He said that maintenance workers would even paint patches of brown grass green to keep the bishop happy.

The bishop's basement bar was modelled at his request on one in the Hollywood home of Bob Hope, the entertainer at whose funeral he had delivered a eulogy in 2003.

"I'm a parishioner down the street and for years it has just bugged me no end," Mr Baller added. "I've seen them waste all that money on that place and then turn around and ask us every Sunday to donate more, donate more."

The report reveals that the church quietly sold the mansion in Wheeling in June to a private buyer for $1.2 million. Mr Bransfield claimed that he knew nothing of the extravagant spending at his home and blamed his subordinates.

His version of events was inconsistent with multiple witness accounts, the church investigators concluded.

Mr Bransfield has also denied accusations by young priests that he made sexual overtures towards them and engaged in unwanted touching.

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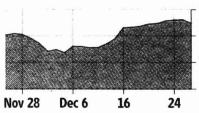
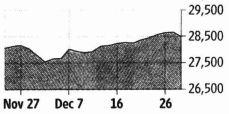
Business

WORLD MARKETS (Change on the day)

FTSE 100
7,587.05 (-57.85) ▼

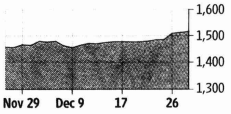


Dow Jones
28,462.14 (-183.12) ▼

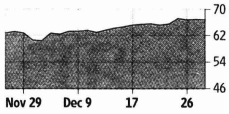


COMMODITIES

Gold
$1,515.39 (+3.77) ▲

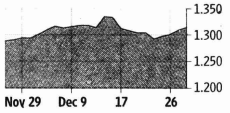


Brent crude (6pm)
$66.72 (-0.14) ▼

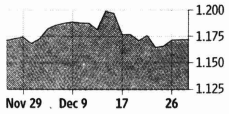


CURRENCIES

£/$
$1.3140 (+0.0050) ▲



£/€
€1.1717 (+0.0001) ▲



Private hospitals sale sparks competition watchdog into action

Alex Ralph

Britain's biggest private hospital chain has been sold to a smaller rival in one of the biggest industry deals in more than a decade, prompting a review by the competition regulator.

BMI Healthcare, which operates 52 hospitals and cared for more than two million patients last year, has been acquired by Circle Health for an undisclosed sum. It creates a combined business with almost £1billion in annual revenues.

In a separate but related deal, Medical Properties Trust, a New York-listed investor, has bought 30 of the hospital properties for £1.5billion.

The BMI takeover comes at a difficult period for Britain's private hospitals market, which is under pressure from property rents and from declines in revenues from NHS referrals.

It also comes after the acquisition of BMI's operating business by a consortium of investors led by Centerbridge Partners, the American private equity firm, from Netcare, a South African-listed group, a year ago and a subsequent recapitalisation.

Circle operates two hospitals, in Bath and Reading, and two in China, where it is expanding. It also plans to open a third British site, in Birmingham, next year. It was co-founded in 2004 by Ali Parsa, now 54, a former Goldman Sachs banker, and was floated on the Alternative Investment Market in 2011, when it was the first private company to run an NHS hospital. However, it pulled out of its management contract at Hinchingbrooke hospital, Cambridgeshire, in 2015 after being criticised for its performance. Circle was delisted in 2017 by Toscafund, a private equity group and its largest shareholder.

The Competition and Markets Authority is reviewing Circle's planned deal before a possible preliminary investigation and has put in place an enforcement order preventing the two companies from combining until any formal investigation is complete.

Circle said that it was committed to a multimillion-pound investment programme as part of the deal. Paolo Pieri, 47, chief executive, said: "We plan to invest in cutting-edge technology and the latest medical treatments to help us transform care in our hospitals."

£9,000 offer as Equitable deal is done

Payout to policyholders seals closure of group

Katherine Griffiths Banking Editor

Equitable Life will cease to exist at midnight, bringing down the curtain on the world's oldest member-owned insurance group.

Its 176,000 policyholders will transfer to a new company after most of them accepted an offer of £9,000 each on average in return for giving up guarantees on the value of their contracts.

The arrangement, agreed by policyholders in November and the High Court this month, has taken more than a year to plan and will formally take place tonight, meaning that the society will dissolve after almost 260 years. Equitable also will release £1.9 billion of capital to the new owner.

The Equitable Members Action Group, which campaigns for compensation, said that the deal would not help policyholders no longer with the society. Paul Weir, its spokesman, said: "While we are delighted for those few remaining loyal policyholders who are collecting a bonus at the end of the year in return for the surrender of their guarantees, there are nearly one million of us who have not received the final 78 per cent of our losses." The group believes that £2.6 billion remains due to policyholders.

Simon Small, 58, Equitable's chief executive, said that the execution of the plan was "the best thing I've achieved in my career ... We've built in good stuff for policyholders and for staff. We have wanted to do business in a way that is right and proper."

Equitable's 200 staff, many of whom have worked for the society through its troubles of the past 20 years, will transfer as part of the deal to Utmost Life and Pensions, which specialises in buying pension businesses that are no longer open to new customers.

The winding up of Equitable marks the end of two decades of controversy for an institution that once had a stellar reputation and ranked many lawyers and MPs among its customers.

The Aylesbury-based society nearly collapsed in 2000 after two years of legal wrangling. It culminated in a House of Lords ruling that its management had acted wrongly in cutting bonuses to 90,000 people with guaranteed policies to a level in line with payouts to those without guarantees.

The legal verdict was crushing for Equitable as it had not set aside enough capital over the years to honour the higher payouts. The society, which was founded in 1762 and is owned by its members, put itself up for sale in the hope that a buyer would inject cash to meet its legal obligations.

That led to a deal in February 2001 with a disposal of its sales force and some policies to Halifax bank, now part of Lloyds. But that left Equitable with a problem of how to meet its obligations to its with-profits policies.

The coalition government agreed in 2010 to compensate more than one million Equitable policyholders who had suffered significant cuts in the value of their policies, in response to findings in 2008 by Ann Abraham, the ombudsman, that there had been "serial regulatory failure" over the affair.

GLENN COPUS/EVENING STANDARD/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

Sir David Jones, who took over as chief executive of Next in 1988 and oversaw a period of huge growth, has died aged 76

Next tribute to former chief executive

Richard Fletcher Business Editor

Sir David Jones, who helped to build Next into one of the high street's most powerful retailers and a stalwart of the FTSE 100, has died aged 76.

Having helped to rescue Next from the brink of collapse in the 1980s, he increased the group's market value by 160 times from a low of £25 million to a high of more than £4 billion over 17 years as chief executive and then non-executive chairman.

He joined Kays, the catalogue business, as a 17-year-old trainee and later became an accountant after a seven-year correspondence course. He joined Next after its merger with Grattan, the mail order business, in 1986. Two years later he was installed as chief executive after a bitter boardroom battle in which George Davies, Next's founder, was ousted.

In 2001 Sir David stepped down as chief executive to become non-executive chairman. Shortly afterwards he revealed that 20 years earlier he had had Parkinson's disease diagnosed.

In a statement to the stock market, the retailer said yesterday: "David will be remembered by many of his colleagues as the man whose courage, good sense, kindness and hard work navigated the company through its most demanding moments in the late 1980s until his retirement in 2006. David was a true friend of Next and our thoughts are with his family at this time."

Sir David later joined the board of Wm Morrison, the supermarket chain, as deputy chairman after the disastrous merger with Safeway, its rival.

In 2009 it was alleged that Sir David, then non-executive chairman of JJB Sports, had borrowed £1.5 million from David Whelan, the retailer's founder. Sir David was later accused of forging bank statements to disguise the loan. A trial in 2014 for making a misleading financial statement and using a false instrument was abandoned owing to his ill health.

Obituary, page 46

Business

Need to know

PRICES

Major indices

New York	
Dow Jones	28462.14 (-183.12)
Nasdaq Composite	8945.99 (-60.62)
S&P 500	3221.29 (-18.73)
Tokyo	
Nikkei 225	23656.62 (-181.10)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	28319.39 (+93.97)
Amsterdam	
AEX Index	605.83 (-5.18)
Sydney	
AO	6921.60 (-14.70)
Frankfurt	
DAX	13249.01 (-88.10)
Singapore	
Straits	3222.44 (-4.09)
Brussels	
BEL20	3967.18 (-29.16)
Paris	
CAC-40	5982.22 (-55.17)
Zurich	
SMI Index	10616.94 (-113.21)
DJ EURO Stoxx 50	3748.47 (-33.80)
London	
FTSE 100	7587.05 (-57.85)
FTSE 250	21936.26 (-122.73)
FTSE 350	4272.09 (-31.06)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3153.21 (-28.22)
FTSE All-Shares	4217.82 (-29.77)
FTSE Non Financials	5010.60 (-42.05)
techMARK 100	5953.37 (-45.58)
Bargains	n/a
US$	1.3127 (+0.0036)
Euro	1.1709 (+0.0003)
£:SDR	0.98 (+0.00)
Exchange Index	80.34 (+0.50)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
CPI	108.50 Nov (2015 = 100)
RPI	291.00 Nov (Jan 1987 = 100)
RPIX	291.50 Nov (Jan 1987 = 100)
Morningstar Long Commodity	607.17 (+0.39)
Morningstar Long/Short Commod	4118.34 (+9.51)

Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)

Crude Oils ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	68.21	+0.11
BFOE(Feb)	68.44	+0.24
BFOE(Mar)	66.80	-0.18
WTI(Feb)	61.68	-0.04
WTI(Mar)	61.44	-0.09

Products ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Unld	634.00	+0.00
Gasoil EEC	621.50	+0.00
3.5 Fuel Oil	248.00	+4.50
Naphtha	558.00	+0.00

ICE Futures

Gas Oil

Jan	620.50-620.25	Apr	612.75-612.50
Feb	620.00-619.75	May	608.00-607.75
Mar	617.25-617.00		Volume: 551301

Brent (9.00pm)

Feb	68.43-68.39	May	65.32-65.30
Mar	66.61-66.60	Jun	64.72-64.70
Apr	65.93-65.91		Volume: 1542586

LIFFE

Cocoa

Mar	1798-1796	May	unq
May	1771-1757	Jul	unq
Jul	1897-1736	Sep	unq
Sep	1780-1733		
Dec	1880-1681		
Mar	unq		Volume: 78860

RobustaCoffee

Jan	1375-1300	Sep	1469-1408
Mar	1378-1373	Nov	1588-1420
May	1396-1391		
Jul	1414-1407		Volume: 7971

White Sugar (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	372.00-371.00
		Dec	375.60-372.80
Mar	361.70-361.00	Mar	unq
May	367.00-365.90	May	unq
Aug	371.00-369.60		Volume: 42011

London Grain Futures

LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)

Jan	147.00	Mar	unq	May	152.35
Jul	unq	Nov	162.75	Volume: 569	

Money rates %

Base Rates Clearing Banks 0.75 ECB Refi 0.00 US Fed Fd 1.50-1.75

Halifax Mortgage Rate 4.24

Treasury Bills (Dis) Buy: 1 mth 0.660; 3 mth 0.739. Sell: 1 mth 0.480; 3 mth 0.701

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Interbank Rates	0.7098	0.7556	0.7944	0.8824	0.9814
Clearer CDs	0.80-0.70	0.84-0.74	0.88-0.78	0.97-0.82	1.04-0.89
Depo CDs	0.80-0.70	0.84-0.74	0.88-0.78	0.97-0.82	1.04-0.89
Eurodollar Deps	1.69-1.89	1.75-1.95	1.82-2.02	1.83-2.03	1.86-2.02

Dollar rates

Australia	1.4280-1.4284
Canada	1.3061-1.3062
Denmark	6.6625-6.6630
Euro	0.8920-0.8920
Hong Kong	7.7859-7.7864
Japan	108.91-108.92
Malaysia	4.1045-4.1085
Norway	8.7921-8.7952
Singapore	1.3483-1.3485
Sweden	9.3201-9.3228
Switzerland	0.9679-0.9680

Other Sterling

Argentina peso	78.526-78.539
Australia dollar	1.8742-1.8744
Bahrain dinar	0.4915-0.4986
Brazil real	5.2684-5.2723
Euro	1.1704-1.1710
Hong Kong dollar	10.218-10.219
India rupee	93.554-93.559
Indonesia ruplah	18253-18265
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3970-0.3993
Malaysia ringgit	5.3870-5.3923
New Zealand dollar	1.9491-1.9495
Singapore dollar	1.7694-1.7698
S Africa rand	18.455-18.468
U A E dirham	4.8222-4.8226

Exchange rates

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	2.050	1.780
Canada $	1.870	1.620
Denmark Kr	9.420	8.260
Egypt	n/a	n/a
Euro €	1.280	1.120
Hong Kong $	10.960	9.640
Hungary	426.990	351.290
Indonesia	21029.100	16773.900
Israel Shk	4.980	4.250
Japan Yen	155.150	134.370
New Zealand $	2.190	1.850
Norway Kr	12.570	10.870
Poland	5.520	4.530
Russia	87.700	73.030
S Africa Rd	20.430	17.310
Sweden Kr	13.060	11.610
Switzerland Fr	1.400	1.210
Turkey Lira	8.780	7.510
USA $	1.430	1.250

Rates for banknotes and traveller's cheques as traded by Royal Bank of Scotland plc yesterday

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Our full pricing service will return in the new year Go to thetimes.co.uk for more updates

All eyes on Washington and what it does in 2020

Growth in the leading economies will be dominated by Trump and trade wars as we enter an election year

James Dean
New York

US	2019	2020
GDP growth, %	2.4	2.1
Unemployment, %	3.7	3.5
Inflation, %	1.8	2.3

Source: IMF projections

Corporate America was the bulwark that kept the US economy on track in 2019 as trade turmoil and political battling in Washington threatened to derail it. In the year ahead, the innate strength of the United States' largest companies will be essential again in balancing out President Trump's aggressive trade policy and Democrats' efforts to destabilise the White House before the presidential election in November.

Recession will be a greater threat in 2020 than it was this year. The manufacturing sector began to shrink in the second half of 2019 and growth in the jobs market slowed. Stocks are overvalued by pretty much every measure and, after three interest rate cuts in quick succession, the Federal Reserve has little monetary policy fuel left in the tank to kick-start a stalling economy.

Recession or not, little in the way of fiscal stimulus is likely to emerge from Washington, given that America's colossal debt went past $23 trillion at the start of November. Mr Trump has shown little appetite for tackling it — quite the opposite, in fact, given that his 2018 tax cuts added $1.5 trillion to the bill — and almost certainly will make no effort in 2020.

Then there is the race for the White House. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, two of the top contenders for the Democratic ticket, have vowed to rein in the power of big corporations, particularly the giants of Silicon Valley. Joe Biden, the third contender, a centrist, is ahead in the polls but could fall behind amid Republican claims of improper business dealings in Ukraine and lingering allegations of inappropriate physical contact with women. If one of his challengers wins the White House, Wall Street will be in for a shock.

Wall Street will be in for a shock if one of President Trump's challengers, such as Elizabeth Warren, wins the White House

Didi Tang
Beijing

China	2019	2020
GDP growth, %	6.1	5.8
Unemployment, %	3.8	3.8
Inflation, %	2.3	2.4

Source: IMF projections

Predictions vary, but analysts can at least agree on one thing — that China's economic growth will slow further in the new year with the country under the shadow of a trade war with the United States.

Complicating the pair's trade talks are Washington's tougher policies on Beijing on human rights issues in Hong Kong, where a pro-democracy movement has gripped the city for more than six months, with no end in sight. China protested angrily after the US passed a law in November to link the territory's trade status with its human rights records.

Moreover, no interim trade pact is likely to solve the deep-seated issues between Beijing and Washington, such as technology transfer, intellectual property protection, market access and China's industrial policy.

At home, the Chinese economy is maturing after several decades of breakneck growth. The pace — inevitably — has slowed and experts believe that the economy will grow at between 5 per cent and 6 per cent annually in the next few years. However, they also argue that the government should ease its fiscal policy and introduce new stimulus measures to hit the 6 per cent goal, or adopt conservative measures to ensure that the national economy will grow by at least at 5 per cent and above for the years to come.

The ruling Communist Party is well aware of the challenge and economics topped the agenda of a recent political bureau meeting chaired by President Xi. "We must steady the growth before striving for advances; we must push for high-quality growth with structural reforms on the supply-side," a report from the meeting said. "We must be confident and be deft in turning outside pressures into motivations to deepen the reforms and expand opening up [of the economy]."

The pace of growth in China is slowing

Oliver Moody
Berlin

Germany	2019	2020
GDP growth, %	0.5	1.2
Unemployment, %	3.2	3.3
Inflation, %	1.5	1.7

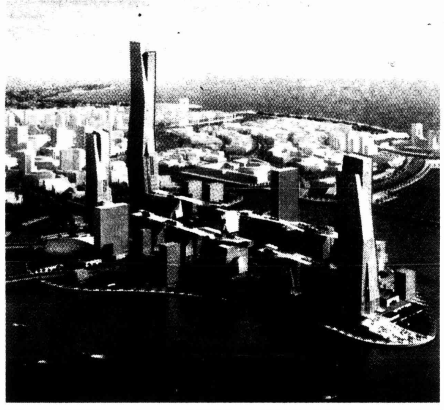
Source: IMF projections

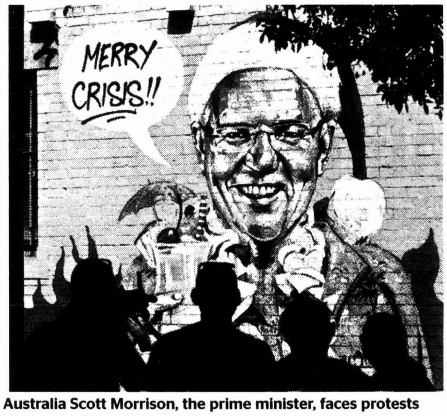
In some German cities, it is customary to greet the new year with a furious all-night barrage of fireworks, often aimed directly at your neighbours across the street. This time, though, the country's biggest businesses can barely manage so much as a wobbly catherine wheel between them.

The economy is all but in recession and manufacturing is in deep trouble. The big carmakers are wrestling with weak Chinese demand, the threat of American tariffs and a perilously late lunge into the electric vehicle market.

Bayer, the chemicals conglomerate, is facing a multibillion-dollar landslide of lawsuits from Americans who say that its bestselling weedkiller gave them cancer. Thyssenkrupp, the engi-

KIN CHEUNG/AP





while Japan hopes for a boost from the Olympics. Saudi Arabia's Neom city project has stalled while in Australia Scott Morrison, the prime minister, faces protests

neering group that was a founding member of the Dax, will have to claw its way back into the stock index after its share price virtually halved in the past 12 months. The year ahead looks little brighter for the banking sector. Deutsche Bank is preparing to cut 9,000 jobs in Germany alone. Some smaller lenders have begun to pass on negative interest rates to customers.

Will things get better? They probably won't get much worse. Wages remain high and most Germans have yet to feel the effects of the slowdown. Domestic demand is strong. The technology and retail sectors are on decent form. Isabel Schnabel, the country's new nominee for a directorship at the European Central Bank, is a relatively moderate figure and is likelier than her predecessors to soothe the tensions between Berlin and Frankfurt over monetary policy.

Yet an economy that leans as heavily on exports as Germany's does can only peer apprehensively into a new year that contains the next chapter of Brexit, waning Chinese appetite for German goods and the possibility that President Trump will make good on his threat to banish every last Mercedes from Fifth Avenue. It could be a turbulent ride.

Richard Lloyd Parry
Tokyo

Japan	2019	2020
GDP growth, %	0.9	0.5
Unemployment, %	2.4	2.4
Inflation, %	1	1.3

Source: IMF projections

For two hot weeks next July and August, Tokyo's Olympic Games will bring athletic excitement, droves of foreign tourists and a wave of excited consumer spending to Japan — but when the fun is over, the country's economy may well find itself back where it began, flickering between low levels of positive growth and mild contraction.

Japan's economy grew by 1.8 per cent in the third quarter of 2019, but most economists expect there to have been a slump at the end of the year. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the global club of leading economies, forecasts an overall growth rate of only 0.6 per cent for 2020. The effect of the typhoon that briefly shut down the Tokyo area in October will fade, but the increase in VAT that month from 8 per cent to 10 per cent will continue to be felt into next year, driving down consumption.

Having seen the Bank of Japan reduce interest rates to below zero, the government of Shinzo Abe, the prime minister, has few economic tools at its disposal and has been forced back on the strategy that failed to break through the economic funk in the 1990s — stimulus spending. This month the government approved a 13.2 trillion yen (£90 billion) splurge to repair and rebuild typhoon-inflicted damage and to promote digital technology.

Overshadowing everything, though, is the unpredictable political situation in eastern Asia. Japan's tourist and manufacturing industries have been hit by a bitter dispute with South Korea about the wartime exploitation of Korean slave labourers. The China-US trade war is hurting Japanese companies that export to both countries. And the prospect of failed diplomacy and a return to military confrontation between the United States and North Korea raises again the prospect of a devastating and unpredictable war in Japan's back yard.

Richard Spencer
Middle East

Saudi Arabia	2019	2020
GDP growth, %	0.2	2.2
Unemployment, %	*	*
Inflation, %	-1.1	2.2

Source: IMF projections *no IMF data

There is a certain *schadenfreude* in the air in Saudi Arabia. For three years, western commentators have mocked its determination to float Aramco on the stock market and, in particular, the $2 trillion valuation put on the national oil group by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the country's de facto leader.

In the event, its flotation on the Saudi exchange was launched on December 11 and four days later the share price hit 38 riyals — roughly £7.75 — nudging the total valuation above that ambitious $2 trillion figure.

Nor is it solely over Aramco that some of Saudi Arabia's critics have been proven wrong. In 2015, after the oil price crash, headlines suggested that it would be bankrupt in five years. Four years are up and its reserves remain healthy at more than $300 billion.

The crown prince hopes to turn Saudi Arabia from a country funded entirely by the company's oil into a more normal economy, but the flotation — selling 5 per cent of Aramco to local investors on the local market, prodded with considerable incentives — says very little about the success of the broader plan. Economic growth remains anaemic for a middle-income developing country. Expatriates have continued to leave in line with attempts to localise the workforce, but there has yet to be any corresponding take-off in local entrepreneurship.

More sensitively, some of the crown prince's headline-making projects have yet to bear fruit. The development of Neom, a new tourism-cum-business city in the northwest, remains opaque. Attempts to use PIF, the sovereign wealth fund, to spearhead diversification seem to have backfired. It went into partnership in 2018 with the Softbank Vision Fund of Masayoshi Son, the Japanese businessman, but their investment targets have featured some of the highest-profile stock exchange setbacks, such as Wework and Uber.

Saudi Arabia is locked into an ambitious ten-year programme, Vision 2030, and there is a long way to go before its success can be judged.

Bernard Lagan
Sydney

Australia	2019	2020
GDP growth, %	1.7	2.3
Unemployment, %	5.1	5.1
Inflation, %	1.6	1.8

Source: IMF projections

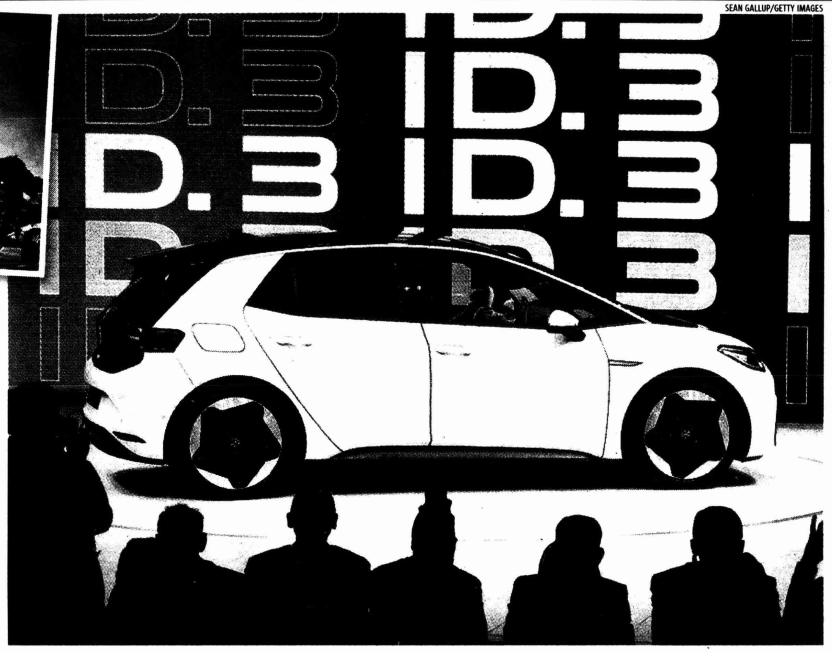
Now in its 29th consecutive year of economic growth, a world record, outsiders might find Australia easy to envy, yet this is an economy that is stuttering. Wage growth is weak, so is household consumption, housing construction plummeted by 10 per cent in the year to September and business investment is down by 1.7 per cent.

While Australia's economic growth rate rose to a still-disappointing 1.7 per cent in the quarter to September, consumer spending was at only 1.2 per cent and despite the best efforts of Philip Lowe, the central bank governor, and the government to persuade them to open their wallets, anxious Australians are failing to spend the extra funds generated by tax cuts and tumbling interest rates.

Now the Reserve Bank of Australia is running out of ammunition. The cash rate is down to 0.75 per cent. Meanwhile, it has dropped its measure of full employment from 5 per cent to 4.5 per cent, but to even get there requires the creation of 200,000 jobs, a task beyond the central bank's traditional levers. Unemployment went up last month from under 5 per cent to 5.3 per cent.

Mr Lowe has been urging the government to blow its thin budget surplus by using low interest rates to borrow and spend on infrastructure projects to arrest the slowdown. But Scott Morrison, the prime minister, and his team appear to be wedded to the political imperative of being able to prove their skill by producing a budget surplus. Or they may be saving their firepower to fight a shock brought on by rising global tensions, particularly between the United States, Australia's most important ally, and China, its most important trading partner.

The International Monetary Fund, in its annual report on Australia, has warned that the economic outlook is tilted to the downside and that if such proved to be the case, "stronger fiscal and monetary stimulus ... would be warranted".



SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES

Volkswagen and its rivals need electric vehicles such as the VW ID 3 to replace older models, far left

German car firms run risk of crippling fines

The German car industry could face a "disaster" next year as manufacturers face the prospect of being hit with ten-figure fines for breaching European emissions rules, researchers have warned (Oliver Moody writes).

Volkswagen, Germany's largest company, could be liable to pay a penalty of several billion euros next year if it cannot sell enough electric vehicles to meet its targets, according to one estimate. BMW and Daimler, its national rivals, may be saddled with bills running into the hundreds of millions.

The past five years have not been kind to German carmakers. Since 2015 Daimler's share price has nearly halved and those of VW and BMW have fallen by more than a third amid a scandal over emissions-cheating software and a shift away from the internal combustion engine.

While sales have begun to recover and profits are rising again, the recovery could be sorely hampered by European Union carbon emissions standards that will come into effect tomorrow. New vehicles must emit on average no more than 95g of carbon dioxide, equating to 4.1 litres of petrol or 3.6 litres of diesel, for every 100km they travel. For every gram of CO_2 over this limit, the carmaker must pay a fine of €95 per car. The Tiguan, VW's bestselling sports utility vehicle, consumes at least five litres of petrol or four litres of diesel per 100km.

The car companies can avoid these penalties if they sell enough electric vehicles to balance out the gas-guzzlers. The blow also has been softened by concessions, such as a higher allowance for SUV-heavy fleets and a transitional period during which 5 per cent of the most polluting vehicles will be exempt.

The scale of the danger is illustrated by calculations from the University of Duisburg-Essen's Centre for Automotive Research, which found that VW theoretically could be landed with a bill as high as €4 billion in 2020, while BMW would be in line for one of as much as €1.1 billion and Daimler for €1.2 billion.

These figures are largely academic as they assume that no electric cars will be sold, but there are concerns that even if the carmakers can turn out sufficient electric vehicles to eliminate the penalties, they may not be able to find enough buyers.

Thomas Peckruhn, vice-president of the ZDK, which represents the German car industry, said that the threat was "existential. If the car dealers cannot meet the electric vehicle sales quotas set by the manufacturers, 2020 could be a disaster," he told *Der Spiegel* magazine.

Stefan Bratzel, director of the Centre of Automotive Management at Bergisch Gladbach polytechnic, said that the industry was "standing before massive upheaval".

Brighthouse sinks further into red as complaints about lending pile up

Katherine Griffiths Banking Editor

Losses have deepened at Brighthouse after the sub-prime lender and rent-to-own retailer was hit by rising compensation claims.

It fell to a £16 million loss in its latest financial quarter, down from a £12 million loss last year, while revenues dropped by 11 per cent to £60 million.

Among the problems weighing on Brighthouse were customers' claims that their ability to make payments had not been properly assessed by the company. It took a £5.6 million provision to cover the claims in the three months to September 30.

Brighthouse said: "The volume of complaints received has been higher than we forecast and therefore our provision for affordability claims has increased by £5.6 million to £12.6 million."

The business is owned by several private equity groups and distressed debt investors, including Apollo Global Management. It sells household goods such as televisions, fridges and washing machines through repayment plans and has experimented with making loans directly to customers.

Brighthouse was authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority in February 2017, but it ran into difficulty in October that year when the regulator ordered it to pay almost £15 million to compensate 250,000 customers.

In common with other lenders to people on low incomes, it has been hit by a clampdown by the regulator on interest rates and lending practices. As part of its review of the high-cost credit market, the FCA found that rent-to-own customers were among the most financially vulnerable, with only a third in work and most on low incomes of between £12,000 and £18,000.

Brighthouse said alongside its annual results to March 31, which were lodged at Companies House recently, that its "well-documented challenges" as well as "the lack of consumer confidence and the regulatory environment" had "combined to make the 2018-19 financial year another difficult one".

Annual revenue fell from £285 million to £274 million, while the loss was £27 million before exceptional items. Adding in those costs, including for the closure of 36 stores, the annual loss was £52 million.

£5.6m

Extra provision taken by Brighthouse to cover claims

Suppliers of costly loans are meant to do much more now than they did in the past to ensure that customers can afford their repayments, including measures such as asking to see three or six months of bank statements. That has prompted warnings that credit for some people who do not have those records will dry up, leaving them with no options apart from loan sharks.

However, some consumer groups and MPs have accused the industry of preying on vulnerable people. There has been a flow of complaints over the lack of affordability checks. Many of those cases are going to the Financial Ombudsman Service.

Brighthouse said alongside its quarterly results: "We are in the process of disputing recent cases where the Financial Ombudsman Service has given initial adjudicator views against us in terms of our historical product prices and our affordability assessments". It added that if the cases were upheld "there would be a material increase in the cost for settling such cases".

Brighthouse's owners brought in new management in April, appointing Anthony Mooney, 48, a former executive at Thomas Cook, as chief executive.

Ghosn lands in Beirut after house arrest

James Dean

The former boss of Nissan and Renault who is awaiting trial in Japan has flown to Lebanon, local media reported last night.

Carlos Ghosn, who was under house arrest in Tokyo, was seen disembarking a private jet at Beirut airport, according to *al-Joumhouria*, a local newspaper. *L'Orient-Le Jour*, another Lebanese newspaper, said that it was able to confirm the report.

Mr Ghosn, 65, was one of the most senior figures in the automotive industry and the architect of the alliance between Renault, Nissan and Mitsubishi. He was arrested in Tokyo in November last year on four charges of financial misconduct. He is accused of under-reporting his pay and using Nissan to finance personal losses. He denies all charges and allegations.

He was initially held in prison but was later bailed on condition that he remain under house arrest in Japan. He was also prohibited from communicating with his wife. His trial had been set for April.

It was unclear last night how Mr Ghosn was able to leave Japan and why he was in Beirut. The businessman has Lebanese, Brazilian and French citizenship. He went to school in Lebanon and is understood to have business connections in the country.

Al-Joumhouria reported that he had landed in the city from Turkey.

Mr Ghosn's lawyers have demanded that the financial misconduct charges against him be dismissed, alleging that prosecutors brought the case to help Nissan executives in Japan who feared a French takeover of the carmaker.

Chairman quits over African oil group 'rumour'

Alistair Osborne

The chairman behind the restructuring of Iconic Labs resigned yesterday morning, on the day of its annual meeting, after financial traumas at a company he used to run.

David Sefton said that he was stepping down after "rumour and market speculation" over his role at Anglo African Oil & Gas, an explorer focused on the Republic of the Congo.

Iconic said that Mr Sefton had felt that his presence on the board "was having an adverse effect" on the company.

He became executive chairman of the loss-making, London-listed Iconic last February and set about turning it into a new media and technology business. The company, valued at just over £1 million, acquired Gay Star News, an LGBT publisher, and signed heads of terms to buy Social Alchemist, a social media agency. Iconic had been founded to pursue opportunities in stem-cell storage, including the promotion of a related insurance product. In October, Mr Sefton outlined how those ventures had "never achieved any commercial traction".

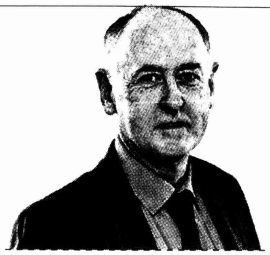
He floated Anglo African Oil & Gas on Aim, the junior London stock market, in March 2017. As executive chairman there, he presided over an £8.25 million fundraising in July before resigning in September.

In the run-up to Christmas, it emerged that Anglo was in talks to sell its key asset in the Republic of Congo for about £1 million to Zenith Energy. The proposed deal was confirmed last Friday, with Anglo saying that it would "become a cash shell". The group is now valued at less than £1.8 million.

Though Mr Sefton has resigned as an Iconic director, it said that he would "continue to be involved" in its operations and that "David has had no involvement with Anglo" since he left the company. John Quinlan, Iconic's chief executive, will be interim chairman.

Patrick Hosking

Raise a glass to 2019, a bumper year for business blunders and calamities



It turned out to be a pretty good year for British business, with the share market up 15 per cent, the pound up 4 per cent and the economy grinding out growth in the face of Westminster confusion. But it was also a fruitful year for cock-ups, calamities and business sins. Here are my nominations for 2019 wooden spoons, in no particular order:

Most over-ambitious bid attempt The proposed $200 billion merger of tobacco groups Philip Morris and Altria was stubbed out almost as soon after it was lit. Sainsbury's planned £12 billion merger with Asda was a 12-month romance, killed by the competition watchdog in April. And Non-Standard Finance's £1.3 billion bid for Provident gets a mention, if only because NSF had 50 per cent of the votes on day one but still failed to land it.

But the prize goes to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange Group and its clumsy £32 billion approach for London Stock Exchange Group. The snub of the year came when Charles Li, HKEX's chief executive, was about to speak at a conference in London's Docklands and David Schwimmer, the LSE Group chief walked out. Mr Li threw in the towel two weeks later.

Most botched float The Americans led the field, with Uber and Lyft both sinking far below their issue prices, but the ultimate flop was The We Company, the group behind Wework. Softbank put a $47 billion valuation on the office-leasing outfit, but, after failing to sell it to new investors, slashed its valuation to only $5 billion. It never floated and Adam Neumann, Wework's co-founder, was ousted.

Costliest divorce Prudential's split from M&G cost £430 million in fees and other expenses. The Pru was obliged to switch lead regulators from the Bank of England to authorities in Hong Kong. The spotlight was shone for the first time on M&G, which within days faced claims of a drink-fuelled, bullying culture, then had the humiliation of having to gate its £2.5 billion property fund, trapping small investors.

Greatest value destruction In terms of market capitalisation, it looks like Glencore will be the biggest casualty of the year in the FTSE 100, after a 13 per cent slide in the mining group's share price so far this year, costing investors £6.4 billion. A Serious Fraud Office investigation announced three weeks ago hasn't helped.

MOVIESTORE/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

The Bank of England clinched the Keystone cops award for financial policing

Nevertheless, NMC Healthcare takes the prize. The Gulf hospitals group responded to a bear raid from Muddy Waters with the most lackadaisical and, so far, not entirely convincing defence to allegations of fraud and an over-cosy board. The shares are down 36 per cent so far this year.

Biggest fantasist Neil Woodford lands this one. The disgraced fund manager bent the rules, not least with his Guernsey listing, but the nature of some stock picks raised eyebrows. The valuation of his holding in Industrial Heat, an outfit trying to crack cold fusion, more akin to science fiction than science, has been cut from £85 million to £18 million.

Jellyfish award for backbone This surely has to go to someone — anyone — responsible for keeping Mr Woodford in check and holding him to account. For now, I suggest a joint award to Link Fund Solutions, the authorised corporate director to his funds, to the Financial Conduct Authority and to Susan Searle, the chairwoman of Patient Capital, his listed vehicle.

Tortoise medal for regulatory speed The FCA has this permanently in its trophy cabinet, but should it be nominated for its belated crackdown on minibonds, years after these were first advertised, suckering in tens of thousands, or for its decision on Aviva's blunder in proposing to buy its own bonds at par?

Keystone cops prize for financial policing The Bank of England clinched this at the last moment, when it emerged that some hedge funds were gaining a trading edge by using a high-speed audio feed directly from the Bank's own conference room. Threadneedle Street officials were unaware it was switched on.

Stubbornest boss Bill Winters of Standard Chartered accused shareholders of being "immature and unhelpful" for protesting over his £474,000 pension allowance. He buckled eventually.

Worst fib Metro Bank tried to claim that it had found the £900 million accounting error that poleaxed the group this year. It was forced to issue a clarification to spare the blushes of the Prudential Regulation Authority, which was the first to raise questions about the capital-counting mistake.

Sneakiest announcement Jupiter Fund Management, for omitting to mention to shareholders that its new chairwoman, Nichola Pease, had been on the board of Northern Rock for eight years until its collapse in 2007 and had, we assume, approved every fateful step on its way to oblivion.

Most shameless executive perk A £436,000 discount offered to Pete Redfern, the Taylor Wimpey chief, on a £2.04 million company-built luxury flat in central London. Mr Redfern, who had bought four other properties using the staff discount, pulled out of the purchase after it was reported in *The Times* "in recognition of the sensitivity of this matter".

Most fumbled conviction A "sixth man" in one of the City's biggest insider-dealing cases was revealed when reporting restrictions were lifted in July. Richard Baldwin, who was found guilty of money laundering in July 2017 as part of the Operation Tabernula investigation, is on the run.

Most humiliating dividend cut BT, Marks & Spencer and Vodafone were all in the running, but Iain Conn at Centrica, the British Gas owner, takes the prize. Much wasn't his own fault, in particular the energy price cap, but some was — including an ineffectual push into "connected home" technology. A share price the wrong side of 100p, compared with 275p when he arrived in 2015, has come to symbolise the Conn era.

Most disruptive insolvency Thomas Cook, whose failure triggered Britain's biggest peacetime repatriation, of 600,000 stranded holidaymakers.

Worst career move Andrea Orcel resigned as investment bank chief of UBS to join Santander without nailing down his €50 million signing-on fee. This proved unfortunate after the Spanish bank decided it didn't want him after all. The ensuing legal case continues.

Patrick Hosking is Financial Editor of The Times

Shopkeepers want cash machines fee freeze

Katherine Griffiths Banking Editor

Fees paid for cash machine use should be increased or at least kept the same to stem the flow of machines being taken out of service in local communities, the trade body for convenience shops has said.

A controversial decision two years ago by Link, which oversees Britain's largest network of cash machines, to reduce the fees paid by banks when their customers use cash machines owned by other operators has led to thousands of machines being removed, the Association of Convenience Stores said.

A plan by Link to cut that payment, known as the interchange fee, a year from now should be scrapped and the fee possibly should be increased, the association said. Cash machines are important to small, local retailers as many people visit to withdraw cash and then spend in the shop.

James Lowman, chief executive of the association, said: "Communities across the UK have been left without cash machines as a result of Link's cuts to interchange fees, with many more only able to get to a machine that charges to withdraw money."

Link is owned by Britain's banks and independent cash machine operators. Its plan to cut interchange fees in order to reduce the large number of machines concentrated in big cities triggered criticism that independent cash machine operators would pull out of the market, leading to ATM "deserts" in rural areas where there were few other choices for people seeking cash.

Link has since scaled back its plans, saying that it would not cut interchange fees by as much as it initially intended as ATM usage and cash transactions had fallen more sharply than expected.

A spokesman said: "Cash use is falling and Link data shows ATM use declining at over 10 per cent year-on-year."

In January 2018, Link announced a phased 20 per cent cut in interchange rates over four years, from about 25p to 20p. The first and second reductions took effect on July 1, 2018, and January 1, 2019. A third cut in fees, due in January 2020, was cancelled, while the fourth, scheduled for January 2021, has been put on hold pending a review.

A year ago Link tried to address concerns by saying that it would introduce a £2.75 premium paid by banks to ATM operators in out of the way areas and less well-off parts of the country.

Almost four fifths of cash machines are free to use.

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Business

Britons change tack to cut housing debt and improve homes

Simon Duke

Homeowners have injected more than a quarter of a trillion pounds into their properties over the past decade, reversing a trend stretching back to the 1970s.

They have pumped £271billion of equity into their homes since 2010, compared with a £275billion withdrawal during the 2000s, according to an analysis of Bank of England data.

The research by Responsible Life, a firm of financial advisers, reveals that the present decade is the first since records began in which Britons have increased equity investment in their properties.

Its study analyses official figures on housing equity withdrawal, which the Bank of England began to collect in 1970. Equity withdrawal is a measure of the amount of borrowing secured against housing that is not used for property purchases, improvements or the costs associated with buying a new house, such as stamp duty and legal fees.

In every decade between 1970 and 2010, the figure was positive as Britons pulled out cash from their properties, usually by increasing the size of their mortgage. However, the trend reversed after the financial crisis. Volumes of housing transactions collapsed during the recession that followed, with many homeowners choosing to reduce debts and improve their existing properties.

Equity withdrawal was part of the leap in consumer debt that preceded the 2008 crash. Many consumers, in effect, used their properties as credit cards in a rising market to raise cash to fuel spending. In the United States, consumer spending was propped up by financial products that made it easy to turn frothy house prices into cash.

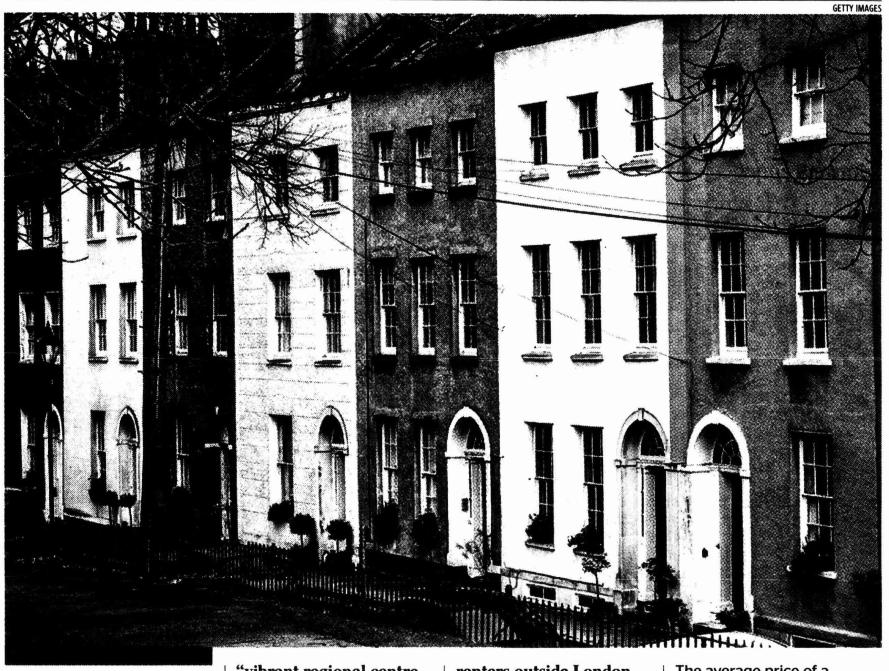
In Britain, home equity loans were less prevalent. However, many homeowners who refinanced their mortgage when a fixed-rate period came to an end borrowed an even larger sum based on the increase in the value of their property. This practice reached its apogee in the second half of 2006, when Britons withdrew more than £15billion a quarter from their properties.

Britons have put more equity into their homes than they have withdrawn in every single quarter since June 2008, according to the Bank of England figures. In the first six months of this year, homeowners injected £15billion into their properties.

"The aftershocks of 2008's financial earthquake continue to be felt in the property market," Steve Wilkie, managing director of Responsible Life, said. "The financial uncertainty sparked by the crisis has created a generation of homeowners who are improvers rather than movers, using excess cash to invest in their property and pay down debt."

● Mortgage approvals by the big lenders fell last month amid consumer uncertainty about the general election and Brexit (Simon Duke writes). The number of approvals for house purchases fell from 46,892 in October to 43,589 last month, according to data from UK Finance, the banking and asset management industry body.

GETTY IMAGES



Go west — buyers put Bristol in hot demand

Bristol is Britain's most searched-for property market outside London, according to Rightmove (Simon Duke writes).

The website said that Bristol's status as a "vibrant regional centre with a strong local economy" made it the most sought-after location outside the capital for buyers and renters this year. Houses and flats are significantly more affordable than in the capital: the average price of a property in Bristol is £316,410, about £283,000 cheaper than in London.

Manchester and Liverpool were the second and third most searched-for locations for renters outside London, while York and Glasgow were the second and third most popular places for prospective buyers.

"In the last year the price of property coming to market in Bristol has risen by 2.3 per cent, well above the national average of 0.8 per cent," Miles Shipside, a property expert at Rightmove, said. "Though this is good news for those already on the property ladder, it makes it harder for first-time buyers to get on to it. These are dynamics that are likely to continue, making Bristol a good place to invest."

The average price of a home in Bristol is £316,410 – much less than London

Scottish property sellers are the most likely to achieve a speedy sale, Rightmove said. Falkirk, in the Forth Valley, leads the way; it takes only 28 days from the time a property is listed on the website until it is sold, subject to contract.

Business to Business

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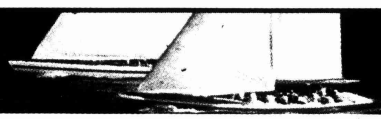

Business of the week

Industrial/Workshop/ Garage Equipment Sales & Distribution Company

Midlands Based.
Asking Price: £2,100,000 Inc. Net Assets.
EBITDA: £300,000. Net Asset: £1,440,000.
Gross Profit: £757,000.
Turnover: £2,200,000. Ref: GM016

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Businesses for sale

Tree Surgery Business Ireland Adj. EBITDA: £457K Gross Profit: £939K T/O £1.41M ..... **Ask £1.6M**
Manufacturer Supplier & Installation of PVCu Windows & Glass Ireland T/O £1.8M ..... **Ask £2.25M**
E-Cigarette/Vaping Business Northern Ireland T/O £292K GP £101K ..... **Ask £150k**
QUARRY, Extracting Quality Jurassic Forest Marble Limestone Wiltshire ..... **Ask £249K**
Two Top End Superbly Located Sandwich Shops Leicester T/O £155K ..... **Ask £59,950**
Executive Coaching & Management Development Relocatable T/O £120K ..... **Ask £70K Inc. NA**
Commercial Vehicle Repairers London /Essex T/O £1.2MK GP £503 ..... **Ask £695K**
Importer, Distributor & Retailer of Ethnic Polish Food Middlesex T/O £2.8M ..... **Ask £350K+SAV**
Cycling Retail Shop in two prime High Street Locations Middlesex T/O £1.3M ..... **Ask £100K+SAV**
Distributors of hoses, connectors & fittings for the air & fluid industry Essex ..... **Ask £279K plus SAV**
Trade & Retail Reseller of Tiles, Materials & Work Tools Kent T/O £180K ..... **Ask £115+SAV**
Child & Teen Model & Acting Agency Central London T/O £76,500 NP £31,000 ..... **Ask £99,950**
Niche Recruitment Business London but Relocatable T/O £268K NP £114K ..... **Ask £249,950**
Manufacturer of Traditional Shepherd's /Glamping Huts SW T/O £240K NP £47K ..... **Ask £125K**
Design & Mfr of Awards & Trophies for Media, TV,Sports&Corporate Events Beds ..... **Ask £180K**
British Sports Car Manufacturer-Service, Restoration & Parts Supply Wiltshire ..... **Ask OIRO £500K**
Agricultural & Construction Industry Machinery, Spare Parts & Equipment Supplies ..... **Ask £200K**
Accredited Double Glazing Company Dorset T/O £3.9M GP £1.1M NP £434K ..... **Ask £1.3M**
Accredited Double Glazing Company South East T/O £5.2M ..... **Ask £2.2M plus Net Assets**
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Prestigious Affiliate Marketing Agency E Midlands/London T/O £890K ..... **Ask OIRO£1.65M (Inc.NA)**
An Ultra-Modern State of the Art Laser Treatment Clinic Leamington Spa T/O £120K ..... **Ask £129K**
Pilates Studio-Clinical Rehabilitation & Fitness Pilates Dublin Large Database ..... **Ask €1,100,000**
Office Furniture Refurbishment Company Relocatable T/O £360K ..... **Ask £347K (Inc. net assets)**
Supplier & Maintenance of Bakery, Catering & Refrigeration Equip. N Ireland ..... **Ask£350K+SAV**
Kitchen, Bathroom & Bedroom Supply & Installation Company Widnes T/O £207K ..... **Ask £49K**
Heritage Oak Furniture & Joinery Brand Kent/Reloc. T/O £115K NP £28K GP £63K ..... **Ask £65K**
Specialist Engineering Co-High Quality Steel Fabrication West Dorset ..... **Ask £195K Inc. Assets**
Scrap Metal Dealer Specialising Non Ferrous Metals Merseyside T/O £7.650M ..... **Ask £Offers**
Vinyl Printing/Screen Printing/Embroidery Business N Ireland T/O £150K ..... **Ask£99,950+SAV**
Specialist Tour Operator - B2B UK & European Travel Market London T/O £575k ..... **Ask £500K**
High Volume Recruitment Agency Kent Leased T/O £270K EBITDA 76,478 ..... **Ask £220K**
High-End Bathroom & Tile Sales & Fitting Business N Ireland ..... **Ask £275K+SAV+Premises**
Manufacturer of Tailored Seat Covers for Vehicles Surrey T/O £200K GP £155K ..... **Ask £130K**
Advanced Humidity sensor Technology World Wide IPR Relocatable ..... **Asking £Offers Invited**
Commercial & Private Painters & Decorators North East England T/O £1.053M ..... **Ask £500K**
Manufacture & Supply of Site Storage Products Containers London T/O £1.7M ..... **Ask £920K**
Installation & Maintenance of Fire & Safety Systems Franchisee Relocatable ..... **Ask £70,950**
Service, MOT & Tyre Centre with Alloy Wheel refurbishment centre Essex ..... **Ask £675K+SAV**
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Footsie falls after winning streak

Ben Martin
Market report

The FTSE 100 finished the last full trading session of the year on a muted note yesterday, with a fall that brought to an end an 11-day winning streak. London's index of leading shares fell 57.85 points, or 0.8 per cent, to 7,587.05.

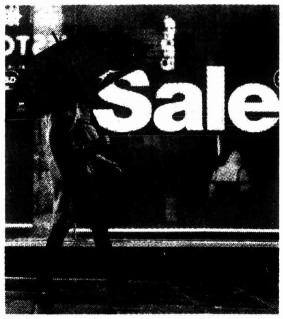
It had been on its best run for three years, closing in positive territory in every trading session since December 11 — the day before the general election that investors hope has brought political stability to Britain by delivering a Conservative majority in the Commons.

The index, which contains many companies that derive most of their profits overseas — and, crucially, in overseas currencies — was weighed down by a rise in sterling, which was up by half a percentage point against the dollar. Nevertheless, the Footsie is still heading for its biggest monthly gain since June and its best year since 2016. The FTSE 250 also slipped, in its case by 122.73 points, or 0.6 per cent, to 21,936.26, but the mid-cap index remains on course for its largest annual rise since 2013.

The market wasn't busy. With most investors concentrating on the Christmas break rather than business, trading volumes were among the thinnest of the year and are likely to be similarly light today, when the market closes at lunchtime.

Next was among the heaviest fallers in the FTSE 100, sliding 142p, or 2 per cent, to £71.28 as investors braced for a trading update on Friday. The figures from the fashion chain will be an indicator of how the retail industry has fared over the festive trading period. Analysts at Jefferies said that they expected Next to stick with the guidance it issued in October, when it said that it expected annual pre-tax profits of £725 million, up 0.3 per cent on last year.

Springboard, the data business, found last week that retailers had been hit by a steep fall in shoppers on Boxing Day, with shopper visits down 8.6 per cent compared with last year. However, the Jefferies analysts said they believed that Springboard's findings could be "misleading" because Boxing Day had "coincided with dreadful weather conditions". They pointed to other recent confidence surveys that painted a more upbeat picture.



The Boxing Day sales may have been a washout for high street retailers

Vodafone fell by 2½p, or 1.6 per cent, to 148½p after it was among a group of four telecoms companies fined a total of €13.2 million by a Dutch regulator for carrying "incorrect and incomplete information" on their websites. The fine levied on Vodafone's division in the Netherlands totalled just over €3.1 million. A Vodafone spokesman said that the company believed the fine was "disproportionate and unjustified" and that "legal proceedings are currently being brought against that penalty decision".

NMC Health led the risers in the main index, advancing 80½p, 4.6 per cent, to £18.16½ as its shares stabilised after an attack by a short-seller this month. Muddy Waters had issued a 34-page report in which it raised "serious doubts" about NMC's financial statements. The private hospitals operator called those claims "false and misleading". Despite yesterday's gain, the stock is far from fully recovered from the Muddy Waters onslaught. The shares were trading near £26 before the attack.

The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
Centamin Hopes that Canadian suitor will make a firm offer	5.1%
NMC Health Bounces after plunging in the wake of short-seller attack	4.6%
Hochschild Mining Buoyed by a rise in the gold price	4.0%
PZ Cussons Rallies after a fall earlier in the month	3.7%
Puretech Rises after positive results from a study of male hair-loss treatment	3.3%
Grafton Shares fall in thin trading	-2.4%
Dechra Pharmaceuticals Profit-taking after recent gains	-2.5%
Frasers Gives ground after surging driven by n half-year results	-2.7%
Domino's Pizza Shares fall after death of finance chief last week	-2.7%
CLS Holdings Profit-taking after big gains this month	-4.2%

Wall Street report

Apple shares reached a new record close of $291.52, up 0.6 per cent, providing some relief for a New York stock market otherwise mired in a down day of thin trading. The Dow Jones industrial average ended the session on 28,462.14, off 183.12 points, or 0.6 per cent.

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TLS

The Times unit trust information service

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Assets Trust	110.50	111.00	+0.32	...

For Abbey National see Santander
For Allchurches see Ecclesiastical

ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS
Inv Serv: 020 7065 1400 Helpline: 0800 317 573

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilt Yield A ‡@	188.37	...	-1.32	1.26
Strategic Bond Fund ‡@	166.50	...	-0.16	1.24
UK Corp Bond C ‡@	104.79	...	-0.78	3.87
UK Eqty C ‡@	6317.26	...	-14.91	3.28
UK Eqty Inc A ‡@	320.11	...	-0.91	4.81
UK Gwth A ‡@	6742.39	...	+0.88	1.86
UK Index A Inc ‡@	1423.81	...	-5.83	3.01
UK Mid Cap A ‡@	5092.33	...	-6.85	0.24

ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD
0800 092 2051
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Capital R Acc ‡@	1725.78	...	-5.09	3.07
Euro Opps R Acc ‡@	109.43	...	-0.61	...
Euro Opps R Inc ‡@	102.36	...	-0.58	...
European Growth R Acc ‡@	341.93	...	-1.00	...
Global Energy R Acc ‡@	32.18	...	-0.27	0.90
Global Growth R Acc ‡@	285.38	...	-0.98	1.37
Global Income R Acc ‡@	130.85	...	-0.53	3.20
Global Income R Inc ‡@	92.31	...	-0.38	3.29
Global Select R Acc ‡@	125.10	...	-0.38	...
High Income R Inc ‡@	75.46	...	-0.06	5.35
Income R Acc ‡@	470.06	...	-2.08	...
Income R Inc ‡@	232.54	...	-1.03	...
Monthly Dist R Inc ‡@	69.22	...	-0.16	4.15
Strategic Assets R Acc ‡@	85.39	...	+0.16	...
Strategic Bond R M Acc ‡@	100.46	...	-0.11	2.73
Strategic Bond R M Inc ‡@	57.04	...	-0.06	2.78
Strategic Bond R Q Acc ‡@	100.28	...	-0.11	2.58
Strategic Bond R Q Inc ‡@	56.93	...	-0.06	2.62
UK Growth R Acc ‡@	593.58	...	-0.18	1.79
UK Smaller Cos R Acc ‡@	1907.71	...	+2.79	...
UK Special Sits R Acc ‡@	650.53	...	-1.13	1.93

AXA FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Dling: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Inc ‡@	572.40	...	-2.70	4.43
Gilt Acc @	201.30	211.80	+0.10	...
Gilt Inc @	74.35	78.24	-0.39	...
Health Acc ‡@	2211.00	...	-10.00	...
Jap Smlr Co Ac @	62.56	66.09	-0.19	...
Managed Inc ‡@	138.30	...	...	4.20
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	261.00	...	-0.30	4.42
UK Growth Inc ‡@	247.80	...	-0.60	1.12
UK Select Opps Inc ‡@	2071.00	...	-4.00	1.08
UK Sml Cos Inc ‡@	317.90	...	+0.50	...

AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD
Admin & Enq 0117 989 0808
AXA Trusts

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gen Acc ‡@	2101.00	...	+6.00	2.64
Gen Inc ‡@	1079.00	...	-2.00	2.70

UK/Global Investment Companies

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Acc A ‡@	257.90	...	-1.30	2.91
Extra Inc Inc B ‡@	86.74	...	+0.24	1.16
Global Gwth Acc R ‡@	239.50	...	-1.00	0.73
Japan Acc A ‡@	168.20	...	-1.00	1.65
Pac Gwth Acc A ‡@	469.40	...	-0.80	2.37

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
08457 46 46 46

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Gwth ‡@	170.70	...	-1.00	0.23
Sus Leaders ‡@	700.70	...	-2.20	1.19
UK Growth ‡@	618.50	...	-2.60	1.94
UK Income ‡@	227.90	...	-1.10	5.50

CLOSE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
0870 606 6402

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Beacon Inv ‡	84.88	...	+0.35	...

Dealing: 020 7426 6232

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Winchester ‡	3107.41	...	+54.16	1.24

EDENTREE INV MGMT LTD
0800 358 3010

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amity European A ‡	266.90	...	-0.40	...
Amity International A ‡	291.30	...	-1.20	...
Amity Sterling Bond A ‡	106.20	...	+0.10	3.90
Amity UK A Inc ‡	260.10	...	+0.80	1.46
Higher Income A ‡	137.80	...	+0.40	5.03
UK Equity Growth A ‡@	319.60	...	+0.80	1.19

F & C FUND MANAGEMENT LTD (OEICS)
Enqs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083
Share Class 1 - Retail

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corporate Bd ‡@	59.41	...	-0.22	2.06
Emerging Mkts ‡@	127.60	...	...	0.50
Euro Gwth & Inc 1 ‡@	1116.00	...	-1.00	0.03
Extra Inc Bond ‡@	49.49	...	-0.06	2.31
FTSE All-Shr Track ‡@	432.80	...	-2.10	3.80
Global Gwth SC1 ‡@	256.90	...	-0.50	...
High Inc Trst @	13.05	13.74	-0.01	5.47
Max Inc Bond ‡@	49.50	...	-0.01	3.00
Multi Man Caut ‡@	70.41	...	...	...
Multi Man Distr ‡@	60.44	...	...	3.37
North Amer ‡@	633.60	...	-3.40	0.24
Pacific Gwth ‡@	495.40	...	-0.10	0.25
Strategic Bd ‡@	200.40	...	+0.10	...
UK Equity ‡@	3721.00	...	-14.00	1.84
UK Gwth & Inc Acc 1 ‡@	658.50	...	...	...
UK Gwth & Inc Dist ‡@	234.70	...	...	...
UK Smaller Cos ‡@	1081.00	...	+2.00	...

FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL
Private Clnts 0800 414161 Broker Dlgs 0800 414181

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Spec Sits ‡@	1684.00	...	-7.00	...
American ‡@	4643.00	...	-17.00	...
Euro Opps ‡@	513.30	...	-2.40	0.28
European ‡@	2658.00	...	-15.00	...
Extra Income ‡@	28.45	...	-0.06	2.79
Glob Spec Sits ‡@	4447.00	...	-17.00	...
Global Focus ‡@	2372.00	...	-11.00	...
International ‡@	149.50	...	+0.20	...
Japan ‡@	418.90	...	-3.40	...
Moneybldr Bal ‡@	50.87	...	-0.26	4.00
Moneybldr Glob	327.60	327.60	-0.10	0.21
Moneybldr Gwth ‡@	76.12	...	-0.95	...
Moneybldr Inc ‡@	37.63	...	-0.15	2.74
Moneybldr UK Ind ‡@	118.65	...	-0.57	3.15
Special Sits ‡@	4211.00	...	-10.00	1.51
Wealthbuilder	69.75	72.18	+0.53	0.44

HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD
01296 386 386
Authorised Inv Funds
Share Class `C

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corporate Bond ‡@	38.55	...	-0.18	2.94
Ethical ‡@	92.37	...	-0.37	0.52
European ‡@	94.28	...	-0.67	1.91
Far Eastern ‡	109.20	...	-0.50	1.68
Fund of Inv Tst ‡@	128.60	...	-1.00	0.77
Intl Gwth ‡	97.29	...	-0.55	0.96
Japanese ‡	63.93	...	-0.54	1.28
North Amer ‡	106.70	...	-0.50	0.59
Smaller Cos ‡@	120.00	...	-1.30	1.29
Special Sits ‡@	56.19	...	-0.40	0.73
UK Equity Inc ‡@	90.01	...	-1.01	5.11
UK FTSE 100 IT ‡@	64.56	...	-0.78	3.17
UK FTSE All-S IT ‡@	74.53	...	-0.80	3.06
UK Growth ‡@	83.82	...	-0.96	2.81

HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD
Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6
HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Ind Acc ‡@	654.51	...	-5.45	1.34
Amer Ind Inc ‡@	545.28	...	-4.54	1.37
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	965.21	...	-5.15	2.51
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	659.06	...	-3.52	2.60
FTSE 100 Ind Acc ‡@	249.19	...	-0.57	4.10
FTSE 100 Ind Inc ‡@	124.03	...	-0.29	4.23
FTSE 250 Ind Acc ‡@	308.99	...	+1.33	2.45
FTSE 250 Ind Inc ‡@	202.36	...	+0.86	2.69
FTSE All-S Acc ‡@	646.97	...	-0.65	3.95
FTSE All-S Inc ‡@	359.16	...	-0.36	4.28
Jap Ind Acc ‡@	130.23	...	-1.79	1.77
Jap Ind Inc ‡@	107.30	...	-1.48	1.83
Pac Ind Acc ‡@	421.90	...	+1.30	2.77
Pac Ind Inc ‡@	282.79	...	+0.87	2.86

HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Acc ‡@	232.18	...	-0.82	1.39
Balanced Inc ‡@	151.04	...	-0.54	1.40
Corp Bd Acc ‡@	301.69	...	-1.10	...
Corp Bd Inc ‡@	127.45	...	-0.47	2.40
Gilt & Fd Int Acc ‡@	492.00	...	-3.01	1.70
Gilt & Fd Int Inc ‡@	74.48	...	-0.45	1.72
Income Acc ‡@	700.18	...	-1.42	4.03
Income Inc ‡@	327.26	...	-0.67	4.16
Monthly Inc Acc ‡@	321.56	...	-0.73	3.45
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	147.52	...	-0.33	3.53
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc ‡@	145.88	...	-0.23	3.85
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc ‡@	72.67	...	-0.11	3.96
UK Gth & Inc Acc ‡@	145.88	...	-0.23	3.85
UK Gth & Inc Inc ‡@	72.67	...	-0.11	3.96

HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Index Retail Acc ‡@	654.51	...	-5.45	1.34
American Index Retail Inc ‡@	545.28	...	-4.54	1.37
Asian Gth Acc ‡@	147.77	...	-0.07	...
Asian Gth Inc ‡@	130.99	...	-0.06	...
Chinese Eq Acc ‡@	513.81	...	+0.27	0.40
Chinese Eq Inc ‡@	434.76	...	+0.22	0.34
Euro Gth Acc ‡@	852.66	...	-6.28	1.76
Euro Gth Inc ‡@	714.77	...	-5.27	1.78

IGNIS ASSET MGMT
Dlg: 0141 222 8282

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gth Inc @	322.55	340.42	-3.34	...
Balanced Growth @	262.17	276.69	-0.93	1.52
Balanced Growth Acc @	393.13	414.92	-1.40	1.49
Corporate Bond ‡@	99.69	...	-0.89	4.77
European Growth @	403.88	426.26	-3.57	2.18
European Growth Acc @	475.71	502.07	-4.21	2.24
Glob Gwth @	331.53	349.90	-3.09	...
Higher Yield @	83.98	88.64	-0.29	4.43
Higher Yield Acc @	275.04	290.28	-0.92	4.32
Japan @	49.06	51.78	-0.03	0.94
Managed @	130.89	138.15	-0.06	0.66
Managed Trust @	71.96	76.96	+0.17	...
Mngd Pfolio Inc @	95.54	100.84	-0.11	0.58
Pacific Grth @	498.71	526.34	-2.81	1.34
Smaller Comp @	756.24	798.14	+1.64	...
Smaller Cos @	628.94	663.79	+1.36	...

INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD
Client Servs: 0207 163 4000
Insight Investment Multi-Manager Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Well Bldr Bal Acc ‡@	96.05	...	-0.32	...
Well Bldr Gwth Acc ‡@	93.79	...	-0.36	...

INVESCO FUND MGRS LTD
Dling: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677
Brkr Serv: 0800 028 2121
INVESCO Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Str Inc N/Trl ‡@	471.99	...	+1.71	4.15

INVESCO PERPETUAL Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Childrens Acc ‡@	486.44	...	-1.95	1.98
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	214.06	...	-0.39	1.33
High Income Inc ‡@	406.46	...	+0.40	3.70
Income & Grth Inc ‡@	449.92	...	-0.88	3.97
Income Inc ‡@	1566.44	...	+1.71	3.71
Money Acc ‡@	91.00	...	...	0.37
Monthly Inc Plus Inc ‡@	105.35	...	+0.03	5.31
UK Aggressive Inc ‡@	198.77	...	-1.20	2.15
UK Growth Acc ‡@	686.66	...	-4.18	2.17
UK Sml Cos Eqty Acc ‡@	1527.30	...	+2.24	0.60
UK Sml Cos Gwth ‡@	82.54	...	+0.04	...

INVESTEC FUND MGRS
Broker Support and Dealing: 020 7597 1900
OEIC Series i,ii,iii, & iv

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American A Acc ‡@	482.87	...	-1.09	...
Asia ex Japan A Acc ‡@	732.73	...	-1.68	0.03
Capital Accumulator A Acc ‡@	260.97	...	-0.77	1.35
Cautious Managed A Acc ‡@	423.06	...	-0.29	0.39
Cautious Managed A Inc ‡@	278.21	...	-0.19	0.28
Diversified Growth A Acc ‡@	132.60	...	-0.09	0.45
Diversified Growth A Inc ‡@	143.62	...	-0.10	0.93
Diversified Income A Acc ‡@	319.87	...	-1.13	2.93
Diversified Income A Inc ‡@	77.10	...	-0.28	4.36
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc ‡@	126.13	...	-0.01	3.86
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc Gross ‡@	125.82	...	+0.20	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Inc ‡@	86.98	...	-0.01	5.62
Emerging Mkts Equity A Acc ‡@	156.39	...	-0.39	1.03
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc ‡@	197.26	...	-0.09	4.21
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Inc ‡@	92.52	...	-0.04	5.99
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt Gross I Acc ‡@	220.49	...	-0.05	...
Enhanced Natural Resources A Acc ‡@	125.74	...	-0.50	1.64
Global Bond A Acc ‡@	139.30	...	+4.03	0.82
Global Bond A Inc ‡@	109.33	...	+3.00	0.82
Global Bond I Gross Inc ‡@	1167.00	...	+29.78	1.25
Global Dynamic A Acc ‡@	173.44	...	-0.60	0.28
Global Energy A Acc ‡@	192.03	...	-1.31	1.70
Global Equity A Acc ‡@	176.59	...	-0.53	0.59
Global Franchise A Acc ‡@	251.16	...	-0.78	0.31
Global Free Enterprise A Acc ‡@	1013.08	...	-4.91	0.24
Global Gold A Acc ‡@	170.07	...	-0.76	...
Global Special Situations A Acc ‡@	286.84	...	-1.56	1.07
Global Special Situations A Inc ‡@	223.06	...	-1.21	1.08
Managed Growth A Acc ‡@	244.73	...	-0.26	...
Monthly High Income A Acc ‡@	234.91	...	-0.04	3.00
Monthly High Income A Inc ‡@	67.40	...	-0.01	4.41
Multi-Asset Protector A Acc ‡@	185.90	...	-0.09	...
Strategic Bond A Acc ‡@	244.54	...	+0.19	1.96
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	119.47	...	+0.09	3.32
Target Return A Acc ‡@	101.79	...	+0.16	0.48
Target Return A Inc ‡@	87.63	...	+0.01	0.87
UK Alpha A Acc ‡@	2726.76	...	-10.22	1.72
UK Blue Chip A Acc ‡@	770.11	...	+3.15	...
UK Smaller Companies A Acc ‡@	5296.12	...	+32.90	0.70
UK Smaller Companies A Inc ‡@	4750.33	...	+29.51	0.71
UK Special Situations A Acc ‡@	1403.91	...	-6.18	1.94
UK Special Situations A Inc ‡@	519.80	...	-2.30	2.03

For ISIS Asset Mgmt see F&C Fd Mgmt Ltd (OEICS)

JANUS HENDERSON INVESTORS
Investors Serv: 0800 832 832 Dlng: 0845 946 4646

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
All Stks Credit A Inc ‡@	138.90	...	-0.60	2.05
Asian Div Inc U Trst Inc ‡@	106.40	...	+0.10	6.69
Cautious Man Fd A Acc ‡@	283.00	...	-1.00	3.44
Cautious Man Fd A Inc ‡@	152.90	...	-0.60	3.53
China Opp Fund A Acc ‡@	1496.00	...	-1.00	0.42
Emg Mkts Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	203.60	...	-0.90	0.77
Erpn Grth Fund A Acc ‡@	242.90	...	-1.40	0.88
Erpn Sel Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	1830.00	...	-12.00	0.44
Fix Int Mnthly Inc Fd Acc ‡@	31.86	...	...	4.04
Global Equity Fund Acc ‡@	3554.00	...	-9.00	...
Global Equity Income A Inc ‡@	62.82	...	-0.25	3.54
Global Tech A Acc ‡@	2225.00	...	-10.00	...
M-Asset Abs Ret A Acc ‡@	144.40	...	-0.10	0.79
M-Man Active Fd A Acc ‡@	240.90	...	-0.70	...
M-Man Inc Grth A Inc ‡@	157.70	...	-0.30	1.95
M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Acc ‡@	188.50	...	-0.30	1.92
Sterling Bond U Trst Acc ‡@	238.10	...	-1.10	1.83
Sterling Bond U Trst Inc ‡@	67.92	...	-0.31	1.85
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	126.80	...	...	2.87
UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc ‡@	158.80	...	-0.10	...
UK Alpha Fund A Acc ‡@	160.30	...	-0.30	1.79
UK Index Fund A Acc ‡@	645.20	...	+1.20	3.04
UK Irsh Sm Co Fd A Acc ‡@	693.80	...	+1.70	...
UK Property A Acc @	236.94	249.93	+0.04	3.14
UK Property A Inc @	100.84	106.36	+0.02	3.21
UK Tracker Fund A Acc ‡@	289.30	...	+0.60	3.22
US Growth Fund A Acc ‡@	1360.00	...	-4.00	...

JP MORGAN ASSET MGMT
OEIC

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Asia A Acc ‡@	245.00	...	-0.50	...
Emerging Mkts ‡@	264.20	...	-0.50	0.20
Eur Dyn (ex-UK) A Acc ‡@	231.90	...	-1.20	0.85
Euro Smllr Cos ‡@	777.50	...	-3.50	0.30
Europe A Acc ‡@	1552.00	...	-8.00	1.69
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Acc ‡@	119.50	...	...	5.57
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Inc ‡@	36.06	...	+0.01	5.77
Gl ex-UK Bd A Acc ‡@	279.50	...	...	0.80
Gl ex-UK Bd A Inc ‡@	214.20	...	...	0.76
Glb Fins A Acc ‡@	1077.00	...	+1.00	1.03
Global A Acc ‡@	1601.00	...	-6.00	0.17
Japan A Acc ‡@	510.00	...	-2.80	...
Multi-Man Tst A Acc ‡@	1158.00	...	-4.00	0.68
Multi-Man Tst A Inc ‡@	1052.00	...	-3.00	0.70
Nat Resources ‡@	627.50	...	-4.10	...
New Europe A ‡@	250.20	...	-0.20	3.12
Portfolio ‡@	285.50	...	+0.10	1.31
Stg Corp Bd A Acc ‡@	99.57	...	-0.41	1.65
Stg Corp Bd A Inc ‡@	57.87	...	-0.24	1.64
UK Act 350 A Acc ‡@	199.00	...	-2.20	...
UK Dynamic Acc ‡@	209.70	...	-0.80	2.50
UK Dynamic Inc ‡@	158.90	...	-0.60	2.45
UK Equity A Acc ‡@	401.90	...	+0.60	3.45
UK Equity A Inc ‡@	46.44	...	+0.07	3.49
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Acc ‡@	167.10	...	-0.20	3.41
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Inc ‡@	90.29	...	-0.48	3.50
UK Higher Inc A Acc ‡@	1138.00	...	-3.00	...
UK Higher Inc A Inc ‡@	547.60	...	-1.80	...
UK Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	579.50	...	+1.70	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Acc ‡@	197.00	...	-1.00	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Inc ‡@	107.70	...	-0.60	...
US A Acc ‡@	1036.00	...	+25.00	...
US Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	803.30	...	-6.20	...

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
020 7581 3020

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Absolute Return ‡@	50.15	...	-0.02	0.60
Distribution and Growth ‡@	117.16	...	+0.21	4.35
Emg Euro Opps ‡@	263.14	...	-0.12	2.81
Euro Special Sits ‡@	429.90	...	-1.38	...
European ‡@	2540.55	...	-13.35	...
Financial Opps ‡@	730.49	...	-1.40	...
Income Trust ‡@	551.06	...	-3.36	4.40
Merlin Bal (Acc) ‡@	203.53	...	-0.19	2.01
Merlin Gwth (Acc) ‡@	461.51	...	-0.12	...
Merlin Inc (Acc) ‡@	325.41	...	-1.80	2.73
Merlin Wwide (Inc) ‡@	330.42	...	-0.86	...
UK Growth ‡@	314.71	...	+1.87	1.60
UK Special Sits (Inc) ‡@	198.38	...	+0.35	2.60

LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
Enquiries: 0870 050 0955 Dealing: 0870 050 0956

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Acc @	2616.00	2639.00	-8.00	2.12
Equity Dist @	893.80	902.00	-2.70	2.15
Euro Ind Acc @	432.60	432.60	-2.10	2.29
Euro Ind Inc @	298.80	298.80	-1.50	2.34
Fixed Int Acc @	150.70	151.70	-0.70	2.12
Fixed Int Dist @	74.65	75.17	-0.33	2.14
Glob Gwth Acc @	243.90	243.90	-1.30	1.15
Glob Health Acc @	84.09	84.25	-1.03	0.83
Glob Tech Acc @	58.26	58.34	-0.28	0.47
Gwth Tst Acc @	106.00	106.50	-1.00	0.17
High Inc Acc @	133.30	135.30	+0.10	4.96
Japan Ind Acc @	64.47	64.47	-0.45	1.64
Pacific Ind Acc @	169.50	169.50	-0.20	2.77
UK 100 Ind Acc @	180.90	180.90	+0.90	3.20
UK Active Opps Acc @	249.90	252.90	-0.10	...
UK Index Acc @	319.40	319.40	-1.50	3.65
UK Index Dist @	169.00	169.00	-0.80	3.75
US Ind Acc @	585.30	585.30	-4.80	1.03
Worldwide Acc @	325.50	325.50	-1.50	1.06

M & G SECURITIES
Enq: 0800 390 390 Dealing Line: 0800 328 3196
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Charifund Inc ‡	1674.56	...	-6.42	5.22

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 1

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos Acc ‡	404.12	...	-0.98	0.59
Euro Smlr Cos Inc ‡	362.27	...	-0.87	2.23

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 2

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Extra Income Inc ‡	792.52	...	-3.40	4.83
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc ‡	100.65	...	-0.74	1.30
Gl Hi Yd Bd Inc ‡	49.77	...	+0.02	4.98
Index Linked Bd Inc ‡	147.96	...	-2.36	...
Index Trckr Inc ‡	77.83	...	-0.39	4.07
Short Dated Corp Bd Inc ‡	25.73	...	-0.02	2.23
UK Select A Inc ‡	3101.80	...	-5.64	3.16

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 3

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bd A Inc ‡	41.67	...	-0.18	3.53
Dividend Inc ‡	60.52	...	-0.20	5.11
Recovery A Inc ‡	127.54	...	-0.25	3.11
Sml Cos Inc ‡	413.10	...	+1.18	2.91

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 4

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Episode Allocation A Inc ‡@	145.10	...	-0.39	2.90

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MANEK INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
0844 800 9401

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Growth Fd Acc @	41.47	43.54	-0.01	...

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0808 005 5555

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
High Income	113.30	113.30	+0.10	4.30
High Income Acc	278.20	278.20	+0.30	4.19
UK 100 Comp Acc @	414.60	414.60	+0.80	3.83
UK 100 Cos @	225.70	225.70	+0.50	3.95
UK Select Pflo @	360.50	360.50	-1.40	2.69
UK Selection Port Acc @	690.90	690.90	-2.80	2.60
Worldwide Mgd Acc @	895.60	895.60	-0.70	1.61
Wwide Mgd @	544.80	544.80	-0.40	1.77

MORGAN STANLEY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
Enquires: 0800 0961 962
The Morgan Stanley Funds (UK)
Class A Shares
Equity

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Eur (Ex UK) Eq A Acc ‡@	1310.92	...	+4.24	1.25
Glob Brands A Acc ‡@	10685.04	...	-21.88	...
UK Eq A Acc ‡@	1184.53	...	-0.02	1.66

Fixed Income

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Stg Corp Bd A Acc ‡@	2618.35	...	-3.81	2.00
UK Ind Lnkd A Acc ‡@	1350.60	...	-3.80	4.24
UK Long Bd A Acc ‡@	1288.90	...	...	...

SANTANDER UNIT TST MGRS
08457 413002

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Pfolio Inc ‡@	110.50	...	+0.40	2.41
Bal Port Gwth Acc ‡@	221.90	...	-1.00	1.73
Equity Inc Inc ‡@	228.70	...	-0.90	...
N&P UK Gwth Inc ‡@	182.80	...	+0.10	3.09
Stkmkt 100 Tkr ‡@	231.20	...	+0.80	1.98
UK Growth Acc ‡@	446.40	...	-1.90	3.14
UK Growth Inc ‡@	260.80	...	-1.00	3.22

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MNGRS LTD
0141 248 6100

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Inc	1485.86	1567.38	-6.75	2.00
Far Eastern Inc	584.69	617.09	-0.73	...
Intl Growth Inc	570.50	600.50	-0.41	...
Japanese Inc	41.85	41.85	+0.43	0.56
Mutual European	2355.53	2484.11	-10.70	1.96
Mutual Far Eastern	922.71	973.84	-2.63	1.42
Mutual North Am	1983.00	2092.88	+6.23	0.24
Mutual UK Eq	1388.28	1465.20	-6.99	3.26
Nth American Inc	1227.65	1295.67	-7.28	...
UK Equity Inc	621.99	656.45	-3.14	3.34

SCOTTISH WIDOWS UNIT TRUST MGRS
0845 300 2244
Authorised Inv Funds (OEICs)
OEIC A Class
Managed Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Port A Acc ‡@	218.40	...	+0.10	0.60
Caut Port A Acc ‡@	195.90	...	+0.30	1.11
Caut Port A Inc ‡@	145.40	...	+0.30	1.11
Opps Port A Acc ‡@	251.50	...	-0.30	0.60
Prog Port A Acc ‡@	242.20	...	-0.10	0.61

Overseas Growth Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Eur Sel Gth A Acc ‡@	3003.00	...	+2.00	0.26

Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr A Acc ‡@	352.10	...	+0.60	3.49
UK Trkr A Inc ‡@	193.40	...	+0.40	3.59

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond A Acc ‡@	341.00	...	+2.70	2.05
Corp Bond A Inc ‡@	133.20	...	+1.20	2.08
Envir Invtr A Acc ‡@	357.10	...	+3.50	0.41
Hi Inc Bond A Ac ‡@	244.40	...	...	5.23
Hi Inc Bond A Inc ‡@	84.30	...	...	5.40
Hi Res A Acc ‡@	385.90	...	+0.70	4.42
Hi Res A Inc ‡@	133.90	...	+0.30	4.56
Safety Plus A Acc ‡@	40.49	...	...	...
Strat Inc A Acc ‡@	215.40	...	...	...
Strat Inc A Inc ‡@	102.30	...	...	2.80
UK Gwth A Acc ‡@	199.50	...	+0.40	2.49
UK Sel Gwth A Acc ‡@	2237.00	...	+19.00	0.62

OEIC B Class
Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr B Acc ‡@	385.20	...	+0.70	3.96
UK Trkr B Inc ‡@	192.60	...	+0.40	4.07

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond B Acc ‡@	352.80	...	+2.80	2.29
Corp Bond B Inc ‡@	133.10	...	+1.20	2.32
UK Gwth B Acc ‡@	215.20	...	+0.40	2.81
UK Sel Gwth B Acc ‡@	2339.00	...	+19.00	0.84

OEIC C Class
UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Gth C Inc ‡@	144.80	...	+0.30	3.39
UK Sel Gwth C Acc ‡@	2440.00	...	+20.00	1.06

STANDARD LIFE INVESTMENTS
0845 279 3003
Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Shares

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AAA Inc CAT Acc ‡@	99.58	...	-0.38	1.54
AAA Inc CAT Inc ‡@	57.90	...	-0.21	1.56
AAA Income Acc ‡@	107.10	...	-0.40	1.91
Amer Eq Gth Acc ‡@	169.40	...	-0.50	...
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	178.80	...	-0.90	2.69
Corp Bond Inc ‡@	64.90	...	-0.31	2.73
Euro Eq Gth Acc ‡@	211.30	...	-0.90	...
Glb Advtg CAT Acc ‡@	141.90	...	-0.40	1.22
Glob Advtg Acc ‡@	187.50	...	-0.60	1.20
Glob Eq Uncstrd Acc ‡@	150.20	...	-0.50	0.40
Higher Inc Acc ‡@	141.90	...	...	2.69
Higher Inc Inc ‡@	49.86	...	...	2.74
Japan Eq Gth Acc ‡@	105.00	...	-0.70	0.28
Managed Acc ‡@	300.90	...	-1.00	0.55
Select Inc Acc ‡@	92.39	...	-0.30	1.65
Select Inc Inc ‡@	54.95	...	-0.18	1.67
UK Eq Gth Acc ‡@	364.00	...	-1.90	2.55
UK Eq Hi Alpha ‡@	225.60	...	-0.60	3.69
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc ‡@	254.80	...	-1.10	4.90
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc ‡@	79.44	...	-0.35	5.10
UK Ethical Acc ‡@	232.60	...	-0.20	1.65
UK Opps Acc ‡@	284.70	...	-0.50	0.48
UK Opps Inc ‡@	258.90	...	-0.40	0.49
UK Smlr Cos Acc ‡@	930.10	...	+0.20	...

SVS BROWN SHIPLEY FUNDS
Enquiries: 0141 222 1151

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced A Acc ‡@	133.32	...	-0.25	1.65
Balanced A Inc ‡@	122.65	...	-0.23	1.71
Cautious A Acc ‡@	117.04	...	-0.12	1.46
Cautious A Inc ‡@	105.75	...	-0.11	1.47
Dynamic A Acc ‡@	299.66	...	-0.63	...
Dynamic A Inc ‡@	277.39	...	-0.58	...
Growth A Acc ‡@	317.07	...	-0.71	1.40
Income A Acc ‡@	244.77	...	-0.40	2.77
Sterling Bond Acc ‡@	242.37	...	-0.28	3.52
Sterling Bond Inc ‡@	97.00	...	-0.11	3.61

THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS
Client Serv: 0800 0683000
Intermediary Serv: 0800 0684000
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (163500,000 min)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Oseas Earns ‡@	133.22	...	-0.47	...

Managed Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Def Eqty & Bd Acc @	120.60	125.10	-0.40	...
Eqty & Bd Acc @	164.80	171.00	-0.50	...
Mgd Income @	80.53	83.55	-0.31	3.86

Retail Shares (Class 1)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Stg Bd Ret Inc ‡@	59.99	...	-0.43	...
Strat Bd Ret ‡@	46.83	...	-0.05	...
UK Corp Bond ‡@	64.04	...	-0.27	...
UK Corp Ret ‡@	63.93	...	-0.27	...
UK Eqty Inc Ret ‡@	99.90	...	-0.50	4.00
UK Gwth & Inc Ret ‡@	99.66	...	-0.35	...
UK Hi Yld Bd 1 ‡@	42.99	...	...	...
UK Inst Acc ‡@	176.59	...	-0.69	...
UK Mnthly Extra Inc ‡@	85.81	...	-0.39	...
UK Mnthly Inc Ret ‡@	75.26	...	-0.34	4.89
UK Retail ‡@	148.35	...	-0.59	...
UK Sel Retail ‡@	131.60	...	-0.54	2.32
UK Smaller Cos ‡@	379.42	...	+1.06	...

For Resolution see Ignis

TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
British	815.10	815.10	-2.80	0.73
European	210.70	219.40	+1.00	...

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡Middle price; . . . No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital; @ Exit charge

British funds

Index-linked

12 month High	12 month Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/-	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
107.89	104.85	Tr IL 0⅛% 19	107.04	-.07	...	-1.29
359.07	353.40	Tr IL 2½% 20	353.40	-.04	1.80	-2.21
117.74	112.22	Tr IL 1⅞% 2022 *	112.64	-.25	1.71	-2.32
377.93	358.76	Tr IL 2½% 24	360.70	-1.36	1.50	-2.28
115.79	109.98	Tr IL 0⅛% 24	110.63	-.38	...	-2.26
123.52	115.24	Tr IL 0⅛% 26	116.35	-.73	...	-2.30
141.09	130.08	Tr IL 1¼% 2027 *	131.77	-1.02	1.04	-2.38
134.70	121.31	Tr IL 0⅛% 29	125.49	-1.17	...	-2.34
404.22	364.16	Tr IL 4⅛% 30	375.04	-3.55	1.72	-2.28
167.61	147.41	Tr IL 1¼% 2032 *	152.68	-1.84	0.82	-2.25
164.20	142.57	Tr IL 0¾% 34	148.44	-1.92	...	-2.14
314.07	271.06	Tr IL 2% 35	285.42	-3.61	0.85	-2.10
162.43	137.32	Tr IL 0⅛% 36	144.22	-2.13	...	-2.05
190.18	161.60	Tr IL 1⅛% 2037 *	169.12	-2.49	0.70	-2.05
185.76	155.56	Tr IL 0⅝% 40	163.48	-2.74	...	-1.93
197.84	162.97	Tr IL 0⅝% 42 *	172.38	-3.17	0.36	-1.89
184.36	149.59	Tr IL 0⅛% 44	159.82	-3.16	...	-1.83
190.81	153.20	Tr IL 0⅛% 46	164.15	-3.47	...	-1.78
223.26	179.90	Tr IL 0¾% 2047 *	191.82	-4.09	0.40	-1.78
199.96	158.65	Tr IL 0⅛% 48	169.97	-3.94	...	-1.75
222.97	177.36	Tr IL 0½% 50 *	189.17	-4.46	...	-1.73
221.12	172.65	Tr IL 0¼% 52	185.11	-4.77	...	-1.72
294.37	230.92	Tr IL 1¼% 2055 *	247.30	-6.50	0.56	-1.71
233.48	178.51	Tr IL 0⅛% 56	193.06	-5.73	...	-1.68
238.68	180.93	Tr IL 0⅜% 58 *	195.93	-5.99	...	-1.66
274.78	207.24	Tr IL 0⅜% 62	222.62	-7.27	...	-1.63
279.87	204.43	Tr IL 0⅛% 65	221.29	-8.10	...	-1.64
298.07	213.98	Tr IL 0⅛% 68	233.64	-9.05	...	-1.67

Longs (Over 15 years)

12 month High	12 month Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/-	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
155.86	139.05	Tr 4½% 34	145.74	-1.83	3.09	1.11
155.71	137.54	Tr 4¼% 36	145.12	-2.01	2.93	1.18
116.47	99.43	Tr 1¾% 37	107.68	-1.79	...	1.26
171.75	150.06	Tr 4¾% 38	159.30	-2.38	2.98	1.23
163.82	142.36	Tr 4¼% 39	151.78	-2.39	2.80	1.27
166.54	144.00	Tr 4¼% 40	153.76	-2.54	...	1.31
176.63	151.48	Tr 4½% 42	162.55	-2.83	2.77	1.33
151.43	127.53	Tr 3¼% 44	138.69	-2.65	...	1.36
159.03	133.50	Tr 3½% 45	145.35	-2.82	...	1.36
180.95	151.78	Tr 4¼% 46	165.20	-3.28	2.57	1.35
114.76	92.02	Tr 1½% 47	103.24	-2.47	...	1.36
188.86	156.57	Tr 4¼% 49	171.45	-3.64	2.48	1.34
182.25	148.79	Tr 3¾% 52	164.59	-3.85	...	1.31
206.16	166.72	Tr 4¼% 55	185.37	-4.56	2.29	1.28
129.93	99.35	Tr 1¾% 57	114.48	-3.39	...	1.26
209.19	165.39	Tr 4% 60	186.33	-5.01	...	1.25
164.59	123.74	Tr 2½% 65	143.33	-4.61	...	1.25
208.10	157.41	Tr 3½% 68	181.73	-5.72	...	1.25

Mediums (5-15 years)

12 month High	12 month Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/-	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
108.07	105.31	Tr 3¾% 21	105.31	-.08	...	0.58
104.42	102.95	Tr 1½% 22	103.14	-.18	...	0.57
107.95	105.70	Tr 2¼% 23	105.98	-.29	...	0.61
112.46	109.35	Tr 2¾% 24	109.75	-.38	...	0.63
126.04	122.14	Tr 5% 25	122.14	-.48	4.09	0.65
110.87	105.84	Tr 2% 25	107.73	-.48	...	0.61
108.89	102.46	Tr 1½% 26	105.40	-.65	...	0.66
107.75	99.97	Tr 1¼% 27	103.96	-.79	...	0.71
132.76	125.24	Tr 4¼% 27	127.30	-.94	3.34	0.71
152.14	143.19	Tr 6% 28	145.17	-1.16	4.13	0.76
147.89	135.90	Tr 4¾% 30	140.24	-1.37	3.39	0.88
146.36	132.46	Tr 4¼% 32	137.84	-1.50	3.08	1.01

Shorts (under 5 years)

12 month High	12 month Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/-	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
101.82	97.56	Tr 1¼% 18	101.32	+	...	0.86
114.36	111.68	Tr 5% 18	113.00	-.01	4.42	0.72
103.78	98.22	Tr 1¾% 19	103.08	-.01	...	1.04
115.07	111.17	Tr 4½% 19	114.36	-.02	3.72	0.91
113.00	108.02	Tr 3¾% 19	112.24	-.02	3.34	1.01
102.01	100.75	Tr 2% 20	100.75	-.02	...	0.66
104.70	100.75	Tr 4¾% 20	100.75	-.02	4.71	0.64
105.06	102.10	Tr 3¾% 20	102.10	-.03	...	0.67
101.64	100.90	Tr 1½% 21	100.91	-.05	...	0.64
117.67	110.56	Tr 8% 21	110.56	-.09	7.24	0.59
110.25	107.46	Tr 4% 22	107.46	-.16	3.72	0.56
100.76	98.71	Tr 0½% 22	99.84	-.17	...	0.56
102.03	99.01	Tr 0¾% 23	100.47	-.26	...	0.62

* maturities as having a 3-month indexation lag and which trade on a real clean price basis, excluding inflation adjustment charge.

This is a paid for information service. For further details on a particular fund, readers should contact their fund manager.

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Business Equity prices

Automobiles & parts

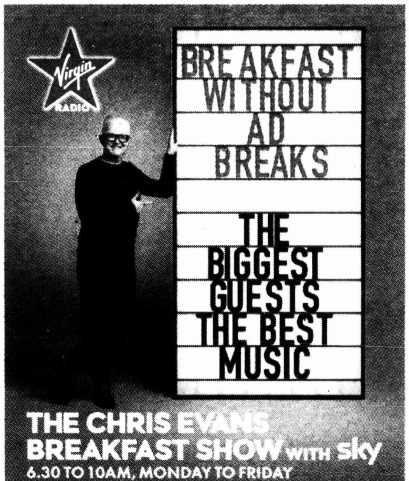
12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1374⅜	399¼	Aston Martin Lagonda	522⅛	- 2⅛	...	-7.8

Banking & finance

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
50½	23¾	1PM♦	35	...	2.6	5.3
2315	1979½	**Admiral**	2315	- 2	3.9	16.7
42½	18½	ADVFN♦	18½	- 1	...	...
1¾	⅛	Amphion Innovs♦#	⅛	...	...	...
141	73½	Amryt Pharma♦	121	...	...	-2.0
16149	10914¼	Aon Corpn	15756⅞	- 67	0.8	32.8
56	46½	Appreciate Group♦	55¾	...	5.7	11.4
1390	1040	Arbuthnot Bkg♦	1310	- 15	2.6	27.0
4⅞	2⅛	Arc Minerals♦	3	+ ⅜	...	-2.8
27½	15	Arden Partners♦	18	...	5.5	-2.5
25	15½	Argo Group♦	24½	...	...	15.6
542½	359⅜	Ashmore Gp	521	- 2½	3.2	20.8
1541½	1273½	Aus New Z	1323⅛	+ 1	6.6	11.3
438¾	352¼	**Aviva**	420⅛	- 2	7.1	7.2
402	295	Banco Santander	316	- 7¾	4.6	11.2
1755	1252	Bank of Georgia	1633	- 2	4.2	6.1
192⅞	136⅛	**Barclays**	180⅛	- 1¼	3.8	16.7
628	492½	Beazley	558	- 6½	2.1	23.7
⅛	...	Blue Star Capital♦	⅛	...	...	1.7
311	208	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	267	+ 1	1.7	8.2
13½	8¼	Braveheart Inv♦	10	- ½	5.0	-1.2
375	287½	Brewin Dolphin	372½	- 2½	4.4	21.1
47⅝	33½	Carador	33½	...	11.5	-5.3
73	38	Cenkos Secs♦	59	- 1	7.6	19.0
334	235	Charles Stanley‡	323	...	2.7	14.4
353	190	Charles Taylor	343½	- ½	3.3	...
389½	259½	Chesnara	310	...	6.6	8.2
145	132½	City of Lon Gp♦	140	...	...	...
447	360	City Lon Inv Gp	439	- 3½	6.1	12.8
¾	⅛	Clear Leisure♦	¼	...	...	-0.5
1663	1227	Close Bros	1611	- 7	3.9	12.1
148¾	77⅜	CMC Markets	148	+ 1⅛	1.3	17.0
693¾	402⅞	Commerzbk	471¼	+ 6¼	...	8.2
697¾	502¼	Deutsche Bk	590⅞	+ ⅞	1.6	-3.0
366½	270½	Direct Line Ins	316	- 1⅞	6.6	10.1
78½	71	Downing ONE VCT	72	...	6.9	...
190¾	111½	EFG-Hermes Hldg	167¾	- 7⅝	3.8	9.6
19⅛	7⅝	EIH♦	7⅝	...	...	-2.5
1	½	Energiser Inv♦	1	...	...	-1.2
210	150	EPE Special Opps♦	185	+ 5	...	3.0
824⅝	703½	FBD	709⅞	...	6.3	4.8
70	59	Fiske♦	59	- 2½	...	...
39	27	Frenkel Topping♦	36	...	3.5	25.9
1149½	906	Georgia Capital	922	- 8	...	...
8	2¼	GLI Finance♦	4½	...	...	-0.7
632½	440	Gresham House♦	610	...	0.4	...
1275	860	Gresh Hse Strat♦‡	1275	...	1.5	...
101⅛	78⅜	Gulf Invest‡	96⅜	...	2.4	6.7
398	262½	H&T Group♦	327	+ 9	3.3	10.7
49⅝	36⅛	Hansard Global	42⅞	...	10.3	13.0
2433	1633	**Hargreaves L**	1959	- 9	1.6	37.6
231½	167⅞	Hastings Gp	180⅝	- 2⅜	7.4	12.4
144	117½	Helios Under♦	133½	+ 1	...	21.6
...	...	Highway Capital#	15½	- ½	...	-5.0
1777	1213	Hiscox	1424	- 6	2.3	41.4
680½	552¼	**HSBC**	596¼	- 1½	6.9	11.4
705	474¾	IG Group	700	- 2¾	6.6	16.3
394	184	Impax♦	394	+ 14	1.0	33.9
1633	935	Intermediate Cap‡	1633	- 9	2.7	23.1
222⅛	87	IPF	162	- 3	7.6	5.3
167	146¾	Intl Public Pntshp	165¾	- ⅜	4.2	15.5
518½	395¼	Investec	447¾	- ⅝	5.4	9.3
347	286	Investment Co	346	- 1	5.2	...
112⅜	55⅝	IP Group	70⅞	+ ¼	...	...
...	...	IRF Euro Fin Inv	⅛	...	...	...
513	435	Jarvis Securities♦	479	...	5.4	14.0
432	290⅞	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	410⅛	- 3¾	4.1	14.1
108⅞	36	Just Group	78½	...	...	...
774	561½	Lancashire Hdgs	774	- 1	1.5	...
197	18½	Leaf Clean Energy♦	197	- 3	...	-5.8
27	14	Leeds Group♦	17	+ 3	...	-3.6
317⅝	216⅝	**Legal & Gen**	307⅝	- 2	5.3	9.8
67182⅜	618	Liberty Group	618	- 5⅝	6.2	11.1
1095	560	Liontrust‡	1095	- 10	2.1	33.6
47½	34⅞	Livermore Invs♦	47½	+ ½	...	12.1
67¼	48½	**Lloyds Bkg Gp**	63	...	5.1	21.0
59½	39	LMS Capital‡	39	...	...	-6.8
4⅜	1⅛	Location Sciences♦	1¼	...	...	-1.0
7734	4062	**Lond Stk Ex Gp**	7716	- 44	0.7	56.8
175⅛	130½	Man	158	- 2	5.7	11.0
9¾	7½	Manx Fin♦	8⅝	+ ⅛	...	3.4
1¼	⅝	Marechale Cap♦	⅞	...	...	-1.6
8640¼	6001	Marsh McLn	8513¼	- 29⅝	1.6	35.6
812½	650	Mattioli Woods♦	807½	...	2.2	26.3
1½	1⅛	Metal Tiger♦	1¼	...	...	2.7
2202	166	Metro Bank	213⅛	+ 1	...	...
1597	1261¼	Nat Aust Bk	1327⅞	- 2⅛	7.5	13.9
306	212	Numis♦‡	297	+ 2	4.0	22.1
452	313½	Onesavings Bank	427½	- 3⅜	3.4	8.0
¼	⅛	Origo Partners♦	⅛	...	...	-0.4
553½	386	Paragon	544	- 3½	3.5	10.2
1118	786	PayPoint‡	1010	...	3.8	15.9
38	24½	PCF Group♦	35	...	0.8	14.6
758⅝	558	**Phoenix Gp**	750½	- 4⅜	6.1	9.8
½	...	Plutus PowerGen♦	⅛	...	...	-0.7
4⅝	2¾	Polo Resources♦	3⅞	+ ¼	...	-1.9
658½	356	Provident	455⅞	- 10¼	2.1	19.4
1790	1279½	**Prudential**	1446	+ 5½	3.4	14.2
7⅜	2¼	Quadrise Fuels Intl♦	3	...	...	-9.2
164⅞	117⅛	Quilter PLC	159⅜	- 1¾	2.0	20.9
223	147	Randall & Quilter♦	176	...	3.1	8.0
2540	2045	Rathbone Brs	2130	- 10	3.1	48.8
187	90	Redde♦	109	+ ¾	10.6	9.8
...	...	Robeco N/V	2670⅞	...	...	...
...	...	Rolinco N/V	2489¾	...	...	...
270⅜	177⅝	**Ryl Bk Scot**	241⅞	- ⅝	2.2	14.6
597	501½	**RSA Ins**	565⅛	- 3	3.7	22.3
2440	1767½	S & U	2120	+ 10	5.5	8.9
59	52½	Schroder REIT	57	+ ½	4.5	28.5
3419	2439	**Schroders**	3355	- 37	3.4	20.1
2615	1962	Schroders N/V	2530	- 15	4.5	15.2
1655	1157½	Secure Trust Bk	1580	...	5.2	9.7
36	22¾	Share♦	29¾	...	1.8	...
137½	95½	Sigma Cap♦	114½	- ½	1.7	9.5
32	12¾	Sosander♦	26	+ 2½	...	-7.5
1199½	913½	**St James Place**	1163½	- 14	4.1	41.5
738½	575⅝	**Stand Chart**	717¾	- 5	2.3	57.8
336⅞	231	**Strd Life Aber**	334½	- 1	6.7	...
3⅛	1¾	Starvest♦	2	+ ⅛	...	1.4
57½	22½	STM Group♦	24½	+ ½	8.1	2.9
3601¾	2609⅝	Sun Life Can	3467⅞	- 12¼	3.6	13.6
1706	1150	TBC Bank Group	1300	- 6	4.1	5.1
⅜	⅛	Tiger Res Plc♦	¼	...	...	-0.8
29	12½	UltimateSports♦	26	...	...	...
216½	139	Virgin Money UK	189⅝	- ¼	1.6	...
1275	990	Volvere♦	1115	...	...	...
72½	34	WH Ireland♦	49	...	...	-1.5
33½	24	Walker Crips Grp	27	...	3.3	17.4
4189⅜	3337	Wells Fargo	4110¼	- 1½	3.6	10.9
1597	1283⅛	Westpac	1301¼	+ 3⅝	7.9	12.5
38½	29⅝	Worsley Investors Ltd	31⅜	+ ⅞	...	66.9
71	12½	Zoltav Resource♦	36½	- 2½	...	...
31612⅛	22966½	Zurich Fincl	31245½	- 314⅝	4.8	14.9

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	Dis(-) or Pm
1189	756	**3I Group**	1103	- ½	4.0	26.4
306½	229¾	3i Infrastructure	295	...	3.7	23.4
121½	100⅞	Abrdn Div I&G	110¼	- ¾	4.2	-7.2
1547⅝	1095	Aberforth Smlr	1534	+ 4	2.7	-2.8
858	675	Alliance	846	- 7	1.5	-4.2
428⅞	352	Asia Dragon Tr	412	- 3	1.0	-11.1
260	175	Athelney Trust	235	...	3.5	-10.9
794	661	AVI Global Trust	782	- 7	1.5	-8.1
...	...	Baillie Gifford European Growth	889	...	3.0	-9.4
849	660		825	- 10	0.4	-0.4
193¾	160	Baillie Gifford SN	179⅛	- 3⅛	...	-1.7
206⅛	129½	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	203	- ½	2.2	-6.5
1018	771	Bankers	1000	- 10	2.1	1.5
1680	1430	BH Global	1500	...	...	-5.6
2840	2250	BH Macro	2590	- 30	...	1.1
958	622	Biotech Growth	932	- 10	...	-8.4
78¾	63⅛	BlckRck Com Inc	69¾	- ¾	5.4	-9.9
145	123⅞	BlckRck Fro Inv	132¾	- ¼	5.2	1.9
410	286	BlckRck Grt Euro	407½	+ 1	1.4	-3.1
208	176	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	207	+ 2	3.4	-5.9
544	424	BlckRck Latin Am	491	+ 4½	5.3	-13.4
204	161	BlckRck N Amer Inc	191¼	+ ½	4.3	1.0
1717⅛	1185	BlckRck Smlr	1710	- 4	2.0	1.3
697⅝	432	BlckRck Throgmorton	685	...	1.5	1.6
396	328	BlckRck Wld Min	384	+ 1½	5.3	-12.5
45¾	31¼	Blue Plan Int Fn	35½	...	5.5	-23.0
358	278	BMO Cap&Inc	356	+ 2	3.4	0.4
134¾	103¾	BMO Comm Prop	115½	- ⅛	4.5	-12.3
149	121	BMO Glbl Smaller	147½	- 1⅜	1.1	-3.1
381	313	BMO Priv Eq Ord	375	+ 1	3.8	-1.7
96	79⅜	BMO Real Estate	82¾	- 1	4.8	-18.0
102¾	84	BMO UK HIT	101½	...	4.8	-9.0
103	85	BMO UK HIT B	102½	...	...	-8.2
402	330	BMO UK HIT UNIT	401	...	3.5	-10.2
935	688	Brunner	910	- 5	2.1	-5.7
3195	2770	Caledonia Inv	3130	+ 5	1.1	-15.2
196½	173	City Merch Hi Yld	196	+ ½	5.3	1.7
446¾	373	City of Lon IT	444	- 2½	4.4	2.5
225⅞	117½	Crystal Amber Fd♦	132	...	2.5	-31.5
396	318⅜	Dunedin Entp	379	+ 6	0.4	-12.8
654	528	Edinburgh IT	628	- 6	4.1	-11.5
206¾	143½	Edin Wwide	197⅞	- ⅜	...	2.9
427	288	Electra Pte Eq	394	- 11	...	-21.6
...	...	EP Global Opp	305½	- 1	2.1	-5.5
115	91	European Assets	110¼	- ¾	...	-5.7
778	626	F&C Investment Tr	766	- 8	1.5	1.2
460	389	Fidlty Asian Val	409½	- 1½	2.2	2.4
250½	182½	Fidelity China Sp	231½	...	1.6	-8.6
284⅜	203	Fidlty Euro Val	261½	- 2	3.3	-6.6
178½	125	Fidlty Jap Tru	175½	...	...	-8.4
280	220	Fidlty Spec Val	279	+ ½	2.0	1.5
966	743	Fins Gwth & Inc	907	- 13	1.8	0.4
134¾	122	GCP Infrastructure	132⅜	+ ⅜	6.6	20.2
205½	111¾	GCP Student Living	197⅜	- 1¾	3.6	18.1
805	621	Gen Emer Mkts	799	- 6	...	-8.5
38⅜	17½	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	30⅝	+ ⅛	...	-23.4
155	125	Greencoat UK	150½	...	5.7	24.2
1140	174¼	Hansa Investment	188½	...	1.1	-34.6
1040	176	Hansa Investment Company 'A'	189¼	+ 1¾	1.1	-35.0
1812	1344	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	1802	- 8	...	-11.6
1350	1064½	Hend Euro Foc	1330	- 20	2.2	-7.7
193¾	156½	Hend High Inc	192	...	5.2	...
1104	489	Hend Smlr	1092	- 10	2.3	-0.3
1518	1055	Herald	1490	- 18	...	-10.2
258	176½	HgCapital Trust	254	- 3	1.9	2.8
174	152½	HICL Infra	170⅜	+ ⅜	5.2	9.1
209	179⅝	Highbridge Tactical	182¾	+ ¼	...	-12.7
1010	782	ICG Ent Tr	1005	- 5	1.8	-13.3
336	247	Impax Env Mkts	333	- 3	0.9	2.6
302	255	Invesco Asia Tr	293½	+ 1	2.9	-11.4
300	237½	Invesco Inc&Gr	294	- 1	3.5	-14.3
145½	129	IPST Bal	144	...	...	-3.4
217	182	IPST Gbl Eq	217	...	3.3	-1.5
104	100½	IPST Managed	103	...	0.7	-2.1
186½	154	IPST UK Eq	186½	+ 1	3.6	-3.1
77¾	70	IP Enhanced Inc	77⅝	...	6.8	3.0
640	442	IP UKSmallerCos	624	- 12	1.9	2.6
499	392½	JPM American	484½	- 5	1.3	-4.6
396	322	JPM Asian	392	+ 1	4.0	-6.3
77⅞	58⅜	JPM Brazil	74	+ ¼	0.9	-20.7
366	221	JPM Chinese	361	+ 1	0.9	-4.2
783½	644	JPM Claverhs	774	...	3.8	-2.8
106	99	JPM Elect Mg C	102½	...	0.3	-0.6
909¾	722⅜	JPM Elect Mg G	902½	...	1.7	-2.5
112	95	JPM Elect Mg I	110½	...	4.3	-3.1
1078	839	JPM Em Mkts	1068	- 2	1.3	-5.5
304	247	JPM Eur IT Gth	294	+ 4	2.6	-14.1
161½	138½	JPM Eur IT Inc	153	- 2	3.7	-12.4
386⅞	321	JPM Euro Smlr	380	...	1.6	-13.7
144⅝	119	JPM GEMI	137½	...	3.8	-3.8
356	282	JPM GG&I	349	+ 1	4.7	2.6
812	631	JPM Indian	747	- 3	...	-6.9
441	331	JPM Jap Sml Co	436½	+ ½	3.5	-8.7
477½	366	JPM Japan	461	- 7½	...	-8.4
1373½	960	JPM Mid Cap	1370	+ 5	2.2	-2.4
104	91	JPM Mlti-Ass	102¾	- ¼	3.8	-4.0
742	498	JPM Russian	739	+ 6	4.0	-12.7
325¾	192	JPM Smllr Co	315	- 3	1.9	-1.6
361	261	JPM US Sml	351	- 8	0.7	3.2
882	662	Jupiter Euro Opps	811	- 5	0.6	-6.0
...	...	Jupiter UK Growth Investment	303	...	2.9	-2.3
1170	894	Jupiter US Smlr	1137½	- 7½	...	-7.8
1790	1480	Keystone IT	1770	+ 5	3.0	-12.4
656	528	Law Debenture	654	+ 2	2.8	-6.3
1470	1205	Lowland	1447½	- 10	4.1	-5.3
280¼	229⅜	Majedie	258	- 2	3.7	-11.2
312⅛	230	M Currie Port	306	- 1	1.4	-0.2
136⅞	104	Marwyn Val In	106	...	...	-33.3
270½	170½	Mercantile IT	263	- 2	2.5	-2.0
558	411⅞	Merchants	558	...	5.1	0.8
612	461	Mid Wynd	605	- 3	1.0	2.5
971⅛	718	Monks Inv Tst	962	- 9	0.2	4.3
1153	796¼	Montanaro Eur Sml	1120	- 5	0.8	-5.1
914⅜	718	Murray Income Trust	896	+ 3	4.6	-6.9
1299½	1098	Murray Int	1268	- 18	4.6	6.2
92½	87⅜	Nb Global Floating	92½	+ ⅛	5.0	-3.6
313	270	Pacific Assets	277½	...	1.0	-3.8
2600	1960	Pantheon Int	2570	- 25	...	-6.9
346¾	282½	Perpetual In&Gr	338	- ½	4.1	-11.3
1587½	985	Pershing Square	1456	+ 2	1.5	-30.3
43200	38850	Personal Assets	42550	- 100	1.3	1.2
1647¾	1084	Polar Cap Tech	1600	- 22	...	1.2
928	798	Pollen Street	832	...	5.0	-13.4
137	99	Prem Glb & Inf	127½	+ ½	7.5	-13.4
138⅜	111⅝	Renewables Inf	138	- ⅜	5.8	23.9
2185	1898	RIT Cap Ptnr	2120	- 15	...	8.7
1130	394½	Riverstone	419½	+ 9½	...	-60.6
385	322	Schroder TotRt	370	...	1.7	-0.4
477	389	Schrd Asia Pac	476	- ½	1.9	-8.2
315	253	Schrod Inc Gwth	313	- 1	4.0	-3.6
203	176	Schrod Jap Gwth	198¼	- 2¾	2.1	-10.9
700	441	Schrod UKMid	694	+ 2	2.5	-5.1
432	347	Scot American	429	- 1	2.9	5.2
847	604	Scot IT	841	+ 1	2.8	-8.6
591	440¼	**Scot Mtge**	582½	- 5½	0.5	2.5
209⅞	151	Secs Tst Scot	207	- 1	3.1	1.0
155⅛	109	Sequoia Eco	116⅜	+ 1	5.8	10.0
1495½	1118	Temple Bar	1478	- 8	3.7	0.3
853	665	Tplton Emg Mkt	847	- 3	1.8	-9.9
490	351	TR Property	488½	- 1½	1.9	3.8
1⅛	⅞	Tritax EuroBox EUR	1	...	2.1	-1.9
87	72½	Troy Inc&Gth	86⅛	- ⅜	3.3	1.0
92⅞	79⅛	UK Comm Prop REIT	87½	+ ⅛	4.0	-2.5
263	168	Utilico Ord	252	- 1	2.2	-26.3
259	201	Utilico Emerging Mkt	238	...	2.9	-8.9
151¾	146	UtilFin RdZDP 2020	151½	...	...	3.7
133½	123	UtilFin RdZDP 2022	132	...	...	6.6
511	420½	Vietnam Ent Inv	476	+ ½	...	-7.8
234½	191	Witan	231½	- 1½	2.2	-1.5
350⅞	286	Witan Pacific	345	- ½	1.9	-8.7
...	...	Schroder UK Public Private TST PLC	36	- 3	...	-28.3
3260	2360	Ww Health	3150	- 25	0.8	1.1



Construction & property

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1285	1180	Abbey♦	1205	...	1.4	7.2
122½	82½	Alumasc♦	95½	...	7.7	47.7
41⅝	35	Aseana Props	35	...	...	...
14⅛	2½	Ashley Hse♦	2½	...	...	-0.5
79¼	52½	Assura Grp‡	77⅝	- ¼	3.5	22.7
2¼	⅞	Aukett Fitz Rob♦	1⅞	...	...	-2.0
295	194⅛	Balfour Beatty	263⅜	- 5⅛	1.8	16.3
774⅛	459	**Barratt Devs**	746	...	3.6	10.3
3888	2506	Bellway‡	3806	+ 7	3.8	8.7
5214	3418	**Berkeley**	4889	- 51	0.5	12.2
1199	869½	Big Yellow Group‡	1199	+ 6	2.7	12.3
364	260	Billington Hldgs♦	357	+ 7	3.6	9.2
320	233	Boot (Henry)	315	...	2.8	11.8
1399	843½	Bovis Homes‡	1363	- 10	4.1	12.4
83⅛	58	Breedon Group♦	83⅛	+ ¾	...	18.9
638⅜	468¼	**Br Land**	636	+ 6	4.9	-9.3
255	162½	Caledonian Tst♦	182½	+ 5	...	...
270½	184¾	Cap & Count Prop	258⅜	- 1½	0.5	...
33¼	13½	Cap & Regnl	25	+ ⅛	9.6	-2.0
1775	1700	Cardiff Prop	1725	...	0.9	14.0
52	35½	Carecapital♦	39	- 4	...	-3.1
140	84⅞	Clarke T	133	+ ½	3.0	8.9
312½	209	CLS Hldgs	297½	- 13	2.3	8.6
474⅜	277½	Countryside Prop‡	458	- 10⅛	2.3	14.2
339⅞	3¼	Countrywide	339⅞	+ 332¾	...	6.2
300	142¼	Craven House♦	175⅜	...	...	-3.0
445	325½	Crest Nicholson	429	- 8¾	7.6	8.0
3082	2071	**CRH**	3052	- 48	2.1	17.6
6160	4715	Daejan	5490	- 10	1.9	14.9
3978	2832	Derwent London	3978	- 4	1.6	20.2
5⅞	4	Dolphin Capital♦	4¼	...	...	-1.5
12⅛	9⅞	Dragon-Ukra Prop♦	10¾	+ ¼	...	6.9
1⅝	...	EQTEC♦	⅛	...	...	-0.3
52½	39½	First Prop♦‡	47	+ ½	3.5	8.9
46	40	Fletcher King♦	42½	+ ½	4.1	17.0
88	48¼	Foxtons Group	85	+ 1¾	...	...
863	512	Galliford Try	857½	- 8	8.4	10.9
946	618	Gleeson (MJ)	936	+ 24	3.6	15.5
937	643	Grafton Gp Uts	868½	- 21½	2.0	13.6
310⅛	206⅛	Grainger‡	310⅛	- 2	1.6	15.6
871	649¾	Gr Portland‡	858⅛	- 2⅛	1.4	37.9
388⅜	203⅞	Hammerson	312⅛	- ½	8.3	-3.7
117	86¼	Hansteen Hldgs	116⅜	- ⅜	5.3	10.9
141¾	114	Harworth Gp	141¾	+ 1¾	0.6	10.5
385	265	Heath (Samuel)♦	280	...	4.4	9.8
473	312	Helical Bar‡	472	- 2	2.1	18.6
942½	870	Highcroft Invs	942½	...	5.1	15.3
577⅝	405⅜	HK Land	440¾	+ 3¾	3.9	7.5
315	198⅛	Ibstock	315	+ 5	3.0	18.6
120	32⅛	Intu Properties	34	+ ⅞	13.5	-0.3
560	427	James Halstead♦	546	...	2.5	30.0
402	330¾	John Laing Group	379½	- 1⅛	1.4	12.1
777	476½	Keller	760	- 7	4.7	...
4674¼	3065	Kingspan Group	4630½	- 21¼	0.8	26.4
1001½	735⅜	**Land Sec‡**	989	+ 7½	4.6	...
26	18½	Lon & Assoc	21⅝	...	0.8	-4.0
22¾	6	Low & Bonar	12	- ⅛	11.0	-0.7
166	111	Macau Prop Op	113	+ 1	...	-2.8
865½	464¾	Marshalls	864½	- 4	1.3	30.8
158¾	123½	McCarthy & Stone	149⅞	- 1	3.6	19.7
281	215	McKay Secs‡	274	- 9	3.7	21.6
120	74	Michelmersh♦‡	120	+ 3	2.6	18.9
1610	1046	Morgan Sindall	1610	+ 6	3.2	10.8
2	1¼	Mountfield Gp♦	1½	...	...	5.8
12250	9275	Mountview	11750	- 50	3.4	15.6
246	147½	NewRiver REIT‡	204½	- 1	10.5	...
785	486	NMCN	595	...	3.0	11.5
202¼	54⅛	Pac All China Land♦	54⅛	- ¾	...	-0.3
329½	265	Palace Capital	323	- 3½	5.8	...
385	340	Panther Securities♦	380	...	3.4	...
2¾	1	Pathfinder Mins♦	1	...	...	-4.7
2826	1836	**Persimmon**	2688	+ 38	8.7	9.6
3¼	1¾	Pires Investments♦	2¾	+ ⅛	...	1.3
40	22½	Plaza Cent	37½	...	...	...
9½	4⅛	PME African Infra♦	4⅛	...	...	-0.9
546½	324⅛	Polypipe Group	540	- 4	2.1	21.8
158½	110	Primary Hlth	158½	- 1	3.4	...
51	36⅜	Raven Property	51	+ 1¾	...	-4.8
140½	130	Raven Property Group‡	134	+ 2½	...	...
...	...	Raven R CNV Pref	119½	...	...	...
...	...	Raven Russia Wnts	21	...	...	...
815	99⅜	RDI REIT	134⅜	+ 2½	10.0	18.1
58	49	Real Estate Invs♦	53	- 1	6.8	21.4
762	512½	Redrow	749	- 7	4.0	8.1
807	506½	Safestore	807	- 10½	2.0	13.3
1175	695	Savills	1131	- 11	1.3	21.0
10	6½	Secure Property♦	8½	...	...	-6.6
896½	587⅛	**SEGRO**	896½	- 3	2.1	10.3
153	99¼	SIG	124⅛	+ ¾	3.0	...
52½	38	SigmaRoc♦	52½	+ ¼	...	30.1
122½	109½	Smart (J)‡	122½	...	2.5	11.9
503	373	St Modwen Prp	503	- 7	1.4	18.5
43½	18½	Steppe Cement♦	36½	+ 1	8.1	8.6
201⅛	136¼	**Taylor Wimpey**	194	- ⅜	3.2	9.7
232	171	Town Centre‡	220	- 2	5.3	-9.4
1692½	1050½	Travis Perkins	1619	- 10½	2.9	54.8
159⅝	130¼	Tritax Big Box REIT	148½	- ½	4.5	10.7
270	112½	Tyman	265	- 5	4.5	21.3
1252	804½	Unite Group	1252	- 9	2.3	13.9
351	257	Urban&Civic plc	347	- 3	1.0	11.3
112½	92½	Warehouse REIT♦	111	- 1	5.4	13.3
1189	793½	Workspace Grp	1189	- 9	2.7	16.1
600	550	Wynnstay Props♦	580	...	3.2	6.5

Consumer goods

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
8½	5⅜	Agriterra♦#	5⅜	- ⅝	...	-0.5
77	37	Airea♦	45	- 1	8.3	6.1
592	427½	Anglo-Eastern	573	+ 1	0.4	...
176	115	Animalcare♦	175	...	2.5	...
2631	2043	**AB Foods‡**	2606	- 36	1.7	23.4
170	93¼	Bakkavor Group	143	+ 3	4.2	18.8
975	540	Barr (AG)	582	+ 4	2.8	20.5
37½	4¾	Bidstack Group♦	12¾	+ 1⅝	...	-6.3
3288	2375	**Brit Amer Tob‡**	3256½	- 9½	6.1	12.1
1068	799½	Britvic‡	906	+ 2	3.1	20.3
2345	1623½	**Burberry Grp‡**	2221	- 12	1.9	25.6
405	243	C&C Grp	402	- 4	3.4	18.3
173	130	Carr's Grp‡	155	...	2.9	12.1
582½	322	Character Grp♦	412	+ 2	5.5	8.5
1825	940	Churchill China♦	1820	- 5	1.5	25.3
3074	2299	**Coca Cola HBC**	2589	- 14	1.9	25.1
570	410	Colefax♦	430	...	1.1	10.9
3408	2472	Cranswick‡	3334	- 10	1.6	23.5
221½	155½	Devro	175⅜	+ 2½	5.1	19.2
3625½	2701	**Diageo**	3205	- 24	2.0	24.6
2⅜	½	Distil PLC♦	⅝	...	...	70.0
1½	½	Equat Palm Oil♦	⅝	...	...	-0.2
106	60	Finsbury Food♦	97½	+ 3½	3.4	13.9
6170	2800	Games Workshop‡	6135	+ 40	2.5	30.5
1620⅜	834⅞	Glanbia	901¼	+ 4¼	2.4	13.6
281¾	178⅛	Greencore	267⅜	- ⅞	2.1	34.7
538	387	Headlam‡	532	- 8	4.7	13.4
...	...	Hidong Estate	50	...	...	34.4
1090	894	Hilton Food	1090	- 4	1.9	29.4
40	26	Hornby♦	38	...	...	-9.9
2713½	1668⅛	**Imperial Brands‡**	1867	+ 7⅜	10.0	11.4
⅝	½	J Lewis Hford♦	½	...	...	5.2
10057¼	7321	Kerry Gp	9568⅝	- 59¾	0.6	34.1
11⅜	1¾	LightwaveRF♦	4¾	...	...	-1.2
140	48¾	McBride	86¾	- ⅛	3.2	13.3
330½	257½	Mulberry Group♦	285	- 10	1.7	...
1880	1350	Nichols♦	1570	+ 72½	2.4	22.4
283	185½	Norcros‡	280	...	3.0	13.0
499⅜	332⅞	Origin Ents♦	333⅛	...	5.7	8.8
75½	59½	Pittards♦	72½	...	...	-5.3
1215	655	Portmeirion♦	804	+ 19	4.6	14.1
⅝	⅛	Provexis♦	⅝	...	...	...
305	130⅜	PureCircle#	131⅛	- 1	...	...
227	178½	PZ Cussons	212½	+ 7½	3.9	34.0
244	95	REA	166½	- 3½	...	-2.1
7¾	5¼	Real Gd Fd♦	5¾	- ¼	...	-0.2
...	...	RiverFort Global Opps♦	...	...	...	...
240	188⅜	Stock Spirits	203	- 1	3.5	35.1
217	110	Tandem♦	180	...	2.3	4.2
15⅞	7⅛	Tern♦	8¾	- ⅜	...	...
480	388	Treatt	465	+ 6	1.1	29.5
⅛	...	Two Shields♦	⅛	...	...	-1.2
4	2¼	Ukrproduct Gp♦	2⅞	...	...	2.8
4914¼	3930¼	Unilever (NV)	4396⅜	- 40⅛	3.2	13.9
5324	3941	**Unilever**	4373	- 43	3.2	13.9
544	320	Victoria♦	432	+ 4½	...	...
⅜	¼	Walcom Group♦	¼	...	...	-0.7
...	...	Worthington Gp#	87	...	...	...

Engineering

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
289	155	Amiad Water Syst♦	253	- 7	...	46.0
35	15	Ass Br Eng#	15	...	...	-0.2
2150	1180	Avon Rubber	2070	- 20	0.7	45.2
641	416⅝	Babcock‡	623	- 5¾	4.7	15.8
588⅛	443⅞	**BAE SYS**	566¾	- 12¾	3.9	13.6
971	652	Bodycote	960	- 5	1.9	18.3
...	...	Bould Opportunities♦#	...	...	...	-0.3
2600	1400	Braime A N/V♦	1850	+ 100	0.6	12.3
2500	1450	Braime Group♦	1550	- 50	0.7	10.3
425	365	Caffyns‡	400	...	5.6	...
9⅛	2¾	Cap XX Ld♦	3	- ¼	...	-6.0
449	347	Castings‡	415	+ 5	3.5	14.7
78½	18½	Chamberlin♦	31½	...	...	-0.3
56½	29½	Checkit♦	33½	...	...	16.7
168¼	96¾	Cobham	164⅛	...	...	...
709	354	Cohort♦	709	- 2	1.2	53.3
114½	82	Croma Security♦	94½	+ 3	1.8	12.0
1125	825	Dewhurst♦	1000	+ 37½	1.2	20.1
570	233	Dialight	239	+ 2	...	45.9
2173½	1491¾	Electrolux 'B'	1881¼	- 18¾	3.6	18.7
1⅞	⅝	Feedback♦	⅞	...	...	-3.1
1527½	954	Gooch Hsego♦	1397½	+ 7½	0.8	...
3700	2370	Goodwin	3060	+ 60	2.7	20.4
2164	1313	**Halma‡**	2143	- 20	0.7	45.1
1510	1049	Hill & Smith‡	1489	- 17	2.1	22.9
46	35	Holders Tech♦	45	...	1.6	12.2
3⅜	¾	Image Scan♦	2⅜	...	...	-7.5
1206	899	IMI	1182½	- 14	3.4	18.9
⅛	...	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	-0.9
6020	2370	Judges Scientific♦	5670	- 110	0.7	33.0
112½	79	LPA♦	85½	+ 1½	3.3	14.9
669¾	458	**Meggitt**	653	- 7	2.5	35.3
241¾	155⅝	**Melrose**	240⅝	- ⅞	1.9	...
322½	232⅜	Morgan Advanced	320	- 4¾	3.4	15.8
216	108½	Mpac PLC♦	198½	+ 2	...	...
224	162½	MS Intl♦‡	181	...	4.5	7.8
179½	107	Northbrdg Ind♦	128½	...	...	...
1626	866	Oxford Inst	1534	+ 42	0.9	26.0
3785⅛	2484⅜	Philips El nv	3722¾	- 32⅞	2.0	28.8
6¾	4	PipeHawk♦	6⅛	...	...	8.5
133	75	Pressure Tech♦	119	...	...	...
583	59½	PV Crystalox Solar	61½	- 1	...	4.0
4670	3232	Renishaw	3902	- 8	1.5	30.8
35½	17⅛	Renold♦	17⅝	- ¼	...	5.5
988⅜	686⅜	**Rolls-Royce**	687¾	- 13½	1.7	-5.4
4	¾	Ross Gp	1½	...	...	...
341⅛	237⅝	Rotork	334⅛	- 6¾	1.7	32.1
78	32¾	SDI Group♦	77½	...	...	37.8
239⅛	165⅝	Senior	176⅛	- 2½	4.2	16.4
87	61	Severfield‡	83	- 1	3.3	15.6
21½	13	Six Hundred♦‡	14¾	...	5.1	4.8
1614⅛	1062¼	SKF B	1549¾	- 38	3.2	12.9
97½	65	Slingsby (HC)♦	65	...	...	-0.8
1707	1342	**Smiths**	1686½	- 28	2.6	48.0
630	298	Solid State♦	625	+ 17½	2.0	15.0
390	185	Somero Enter♦	274	+ 4	5.4	10.5
2948	2188	Spectris	2933	- 19	2.0	71.7
9400	5950	**Spirax-Sarco**	9020	- 105	1.1	30.1
26	10	Surface Trsfms♦	23⅝	...	...	...
108½	73	Tex Hldgs#	73	...	3.4	-4.9
348	248½	Thorpe FW♦	348	+ 12	1.5	25.1
7½	5⅞	TP Group♦	6½	...	...	3.3
88½	42½	Transense Tech♦	77	...	...	-6.9
19½	10¼	Tricorn♦	10½	...	1.9	6.1
2252	1232	Ultra Electrncs	2116	- 36	2.4	31.6
642	341	Vesuvius	507	+ 4	3.9	11.0
1305	1000	Vitec	1085	+ 10	3.4	16.8
152½	79	Volex♦	152½	+ 6½	...	20.4
1814	1244½	Weir	1511½	- 32½	3.0	63.7
3110	1965	XP Power‡	3110	+ 210	2.7	23.4
385	180	Zytronic♦	230	- 2½	9.9	12.5

Health

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
354½	222	AdvancedMedical♦	290	+ 4½	0.4	30.2
15½	8⅛	Allergy Therap♦	10⅛	...	...	19.6
84	60	Allnce Pharma♦‡	83	- 1	1.7	20.4
83½	39	Angle♦	60½	...	...	-9.2
410	314	Anpario♦	335	+ 5	2.0	17.8
110	42½	Aortech Int♦	101	- ½	...	...
...	...	Aqua Bounty♦	662½	...	...	...
7808	5325	**AstraZeneca**	7654	- 91	3.0	58.7
245	152½	Brand Architekts♦	155	...	4.1	18.4
137½	102½	Cello Health♦	134½	...	2.8	19.0
55	14⅜	Circassia Phm♦	18⅝	- ½	...	-1.2
1075	710	Consort Med	1030	+ 5	2.0	...
202¾	118½	Convatec Group	198¾	+ ⅝	2.2	31.6
50	26½	Creighton	44½	...	0.8	10.7
3036	2046	Dechra Pharma	2892	- 74	0.9	96.1
2	⅞	Deltex Medical♦	1⅜	...	...	...
6¼	1½	e-Therapeutics♦	3	...	...	-2.6
485	205	Eco Animal Hlth♦	215	...	4.6	12.3
36⅝	27⅛	EKF Diagnostics♦	34¼	- ¼	...	15.0
47½	6	Futura Medical♦	14¾	- ½	...	-2.9
3246	2146	Genus	3180	- 48	0.8	...
1817½	1436	**GlaxoSmKline‡**	1798	- 20¾	4.4	19.6
...	...	Gunsynd♦	...	...	...	-0.5
2200	1510½	**Hikma Pharms**	2013	- 16	1.5	17.2
476	272	Hutchison CM♦	390	+ 4	...	15.6
290	167½	Immunodiag Sys♦	273	...	0.2	71.8
28	7	ImmuPharma♦	16⅜	...	...	-3.2
126⅝	30	Indivior	39⅛	- 1½	...	1.6
90½	23	IXICO♦	90½	- 3	...	...
5⅛	3⅜	LiDCO♦	4⅞	...	...	-7.9
415¼	293⅝	Mediclinic Int	415¼	+ 4⅜	1.9	24.2

Equity prices Business

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
14⅜	2¾	N4 Pharma♦	2¾	...	...	-2.2
3000	1300½	**NMC Health**	1816½	+ 80½	0.9	17.9
96.20	76.96	Novartis	CHF 91.90	- 1.21	3.2	29.4
14⅜	8½	Omega Diags♦	14⅜	...	...	...
771	496½	Oxford Biomedica	670	+ 6	...	...
4⅛	2⅜	Physiomics♦	3½	+ ¼	...	...
64½	33½	Premier Veterinary	61	+ 2	...	-2.9
4	2¼	Proteome Scies♦	2⅞	...	...	...
6688	5593	**Reckitt Benck**	6180	- 44	2.7	19.2
¾	¼	Sareum Hldgs♦	¼	...	...	-7.1
610	41	Silence Therap♦	358	- 42	...	...
1990	1396	**Smith & Neph**	1846	- 15	1.5	29.4
143¼	96¼	Spire Hcare	143¼	+ 4¼	2.6	35.8
32½	19½	Summit Corp♦	21	...	...	-0.9
18	5⅞	Synairgen♦	5⅞	...	...	-1.7
8¼	½	Tissue Regenix♦	1	...	...	-1.4
76	40	Tiziana Life♦	41	...	...	-8.6
390	247½	Tristel♦	390	+ 6½	1.2	44.0
832½	551	UDG Healthcare	808½	- 1	1.5	...
1⅛	...	ValiRx♦	...	...	...	-0.2
96¼	75¾	Vectura Grp	92½	- 1⅞	...	-7.3
106	38½	Verona Pharma♦	62½	- 11½	...	-2.3

Industrials

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
107¾	83¾	Accsys Tech	102¼	+ ¼	...	...
6359⅝	4798⅛	BASF	5754	- 46⅞	4.9	24.0
6283⅝	4484¾	Bayer DM50	6220⅜	- 34⅛	3.9	...
680	280	Biome Tech♦	280	...	...	...
3¼	1½	Byotrol♦	1⅝	...	...	20.9
12⅝	11⅝	Camb Gbl Timber♦	12½	...	...	...
120¾	72⅞	Cloudcall Group♦	98½	- ½	...	-8.3
91¼	68	Coats Grp	74⅞	...	1.7	19.5
5375	4564	**Croda**	5140	+ 20	1.7	28.0
1410	911	Cropper (James)♦‡	1285	+ 5	1.0	2.9
5⅛	1¾	DeepMatter Gp♦	1⅞	...	...	-4.5
197⅞	129¾	Elementis	180½	- 2	3.5	22.3
742	612	Evans (M.P.)♦	742	- 8	2.4	...
75½	1⅞	Hardide♦	61½	...	...	...
70	52½	Inspiration Health♦	67	...	...	19.4
5479⅞	3988½	Jardine Math	4255⅛	+ 7⅝	3.1	12.1
3098½	2248½	Jardine Strat	2385¼	+ 22⅞	1.1	10.6
3454	2665	**Johnson Math**‡	3027	- 58	2.8	15.1
1898	1510½	**Mondi**	1770½	- 14½	3.8	10.2
88½	65	Robinson♦	80	...	6.8	13.7
403	157	Scapa♦	246	+ 2	1.1	...
394¾	292⅞	**Smith (DS)**	388⅞	- 4⅜	3.8	...
1010⅜	672⅛	Swire Pacific	714¾	+ 11¾	4.2	5.9
12¼	5¾	Symph Environ♦	6¾	...	...	...
...	...	Syngenta	34274	+ 68	...	39.2
392¾	279	Synthomer	354	- ⅛	3.4	16.4
3373⅜	2419⅛	Takeda Pharm	3031	- 22⅜	4.4	...
5⅛	1⅛	Velocys♦	1⅝	...	...	-0.6
2522	1845	Victrex	2508	- 16	2.3	21.8
455	271	Wynnstay Group♦	302½	+ 5	4.4	8.4
706	302	Zotefoams	455	+ 20	1.3	26.4

Leisure

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
180½	129¼	888 Hldgs	164	- 1⅝	4.9	12.9
1660	482	Accesso Tech♦	490	- 10	...	...
355	220	Best of the Best♦	355	+ 14	0.4	9.2
4430	3056	**Carnival**	3652	- 25	4.5	10.0
9	1¾	Cathay Intl	3½	...	...	-0.7
167½	160¾	Celtic♦	162½	...	...	23.9
321	191	Cineworld‡	219	- 3½	6.7	14.0
323	221⅛	Domino's Pizza	316¼	- 8⅞	3.0	37.6
285	180¾	El Group	283¾	...	...	31.5
9234	5525	**Flutter Ent**	9234	+ 4	2.1	39.3
1230	846	Fullr Sm A‡	950	...	2.0	34.1
10⅝	4	Gaming Realms♦	10⅝	+ 1⅝	...	-5.9
897⅜	507½	GVC Holdings	883⅛	+ 7½	3.6	...
490	420	Heavitree♦	420	...	1.8	15.0
230	220	Heavitree A♦	220	...	3.6	7.8
70	57½	Hermes Pacific♦	60	...	...	...
5738	4257½	**Intercont Htls**	5216	- 4	1.7	28.0
160	105⅜	Mandarin Orntl	135⅝	...	1.7	68.0
131⅜	93	Marston's‡	129	- ⅝	5.8	11.1
3¼	1½	Minoan Gp♦	2	+ ⅛	...	-1.3
470½	238	Mitch & Butlers	458½	- 2	...	17.8
499⅜	333½	On The Beach	492½	+ 5½	0.6	28.1
1990	1630	PPHE Hotels	1880	- 10	1.8	29.3
¼	...	Prospex♦	⅛	...	...	1.9
277	137¾	Rank Grp	276	...	2.7	38.8
163	111⅞	Restaurant Gp	160⅛	...	4.0	-9.4
61	46	Rotala♦	54½	...	4.9	10.5
41	26⅜	Sportech	32⅜	+ ⅛	...	...
748⅛	608	SSP Group	655	- 1	1.6	24.9
77½	19½	St James House♦	23½	...	...	...
10⅝	2⅝	Tasty♦	2⅝	...	...	-1.3
1213½	698	**TUI**	967½	- 6¾	6.6	11.4
3½	1	Webis Holdings♦	1¼	...	...	-6.5
1734	1089	Wetherspoon JD	1674	- 20	0.7	24.2
5152	3988	**Whitbread**	4879	- 14	2.0	20.4
205⅛	132¼	William Hill	186¾	+ 1⅛	6.4	66.7
1885	1322½	Young & Co - A♦	1640	+ 12½	1.2	27.3
1310	1030	Young & Co - N/V♦	1295	+ 25	1.6	21.6

Media

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1⅞	⅛	7digital Gp♦	⅛	...	...	...
43	25	Aeorema Comms♦	38½	...	1.9	12.2
117½	44	Altitude Group♦	48	...	...	...
206	125	Arcontech Grp♦	198	...	0.6	23.7
411	319	Ascential	391	...	1.4	64.1
606	440½	**Auto Trader**	603½	- 4	1.1	27.1
293	199	Bloomsbury Pub	293	+ 13	2.7	24.6
91	38	Bonhill Group♦	38	...	...	...
82½	67½	Catalyst Media♦	69	...	84.0	13.8
10	1¼	Catenae♦	1¼	...	...	...
56½	31	Centaur Media	36½	...	8.2	-3.4
877	575	Daily Mail‡	839	- 1	2.7	4.8
415	225	DCD Media♦	275	...	...	...
9¼	4⅛	Dods Gp♦	4¾	...	...	-2.6
67½	37	Ebiquity♦	37	- 1	1.9	-2.8
⅛	...	Edenville Energy♦	...	...	...	-0.3
589	348¾	Entertainmnt One#	557	- ½	...	...
1498	1152	Euromoney In Inv‡	1296	- 6	2.5	35.9
1572	465	Future	1468	- 8	...	...
1290	587½	GlobalData♦	1290	...	0.8	...
105	64½	Gocompare.com	103	- ¾	1.5	21.9
103	57½	Hyve Group	101½	- 1⅛	1.9	...
722	519	IG Design Grp♦‡	722	+ 8	1.1	39.6
33	11	Immedia Grp♦	27½	...	...	...
892	605¾	**Informa**	860½	- 7	2.5	35.8
156½	103½	**ITV**	151¾	- 1	5.2	13.6
19½	1½	Jaywing♦	4	+ ½	...	-3.4
838¾	570½	**Just Eat**	838¾	+ 9⅛	...	...
71½	26½	Live Company Gp♦	30½	...	...	-4.8
394	79	M&C Saatchi♦	118	- 3	9.2	7.1
...	...	Mediazest♦	...	...	...	...
160	62½	Mirada♦	135	...	...	1.6
96	50	Mission Group♦	79	- 1	2.3	12.1
417⅝	274⅛	Moneysupermarket	335	- 4¾	3.3	19.1
1119¼	865⅜	News Corp A	1076¾	- 2¼	1.5	...
1146⅛	881½	News Corp B	1102⅝	- ¾	1.4	...
658	465	Next 15 Comms♦	536	+ 16	1.4	61.6
1027½	615	**Pearson**	651⅛	- 3¾	2.8	11.3
106	76	Photo-Me	97	+ ½	8.7	11.7
3	1¾	Primorus Inv♦	2½	...	...	-9.5
78½	50	Quarto	75½	...	...	6.9
1⅜	½	Reabold Resources♦	⅝	...	...	-9.2
135⅜	55	Reach	135⅜	+ 2¾	4.5	9.5
½	⅛	REACT Grp♦	½	...	...	-1.0
2011	1603	**RELX PLC**	1907	- 19	2.2	24.7
649	428	**Rightmove**	643¾	- 5¾	1.0	34.2
17½	11	SpaceandPeople♦	12	...	4.1	-3.7
412	336	STV Group	408	- 5	4.9	11.9
246	180	System1 Group♦	208	+ 1	3.6	18.0
15	8⅝	Totally♦	13⅛	+ ¼	...	-4.4
3103½	2132¾	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2841¼	- 11⅜	1.3	14.5
3042⅜	2211½	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2795½	- 4⅞	1.3	14.3
¼	...	Vela Tech♦	...	...	...	-0.4
2⅛	½	Vintana♦	1	+ ⅛	...	-0.7
274	178	Wilmington	260	+ 4	3.4	20.5
1070	800⅜	**WPP**	1069½	- 8	5.6	19.2
652	386	YouGov PLC♦	641	+ 1	0.4	48.5
⅜	⅛	Zinc Media♦	⅛	...	...	-1.2

Natural resources

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
39½	4¼	ADM Energy♦	4¾	...	...	3.7
25½	3	AFC Energy♦	16¼	+ ¾	...	...
¼	⅛	Alba Mineral Res♦	⅛	...	...	...
...	...	Alexander Mining♦	...	...	...	-1.3
⅜	...	Alien Metals♦	⅛	...	...	-1.2
146¼	113⅛	Alumina	125⅜	- 1	13.7	8.0
19⅞	11¾	Amerisur Res♦	19	...	...	...
1¾	⅝	Aminex	⅞	...	...	-0.9
4	1⅝	Amur Mins Corp♦	2	...	...	-8.4
⅞	...	Andalas Energy♦	⅛	...	...	-0.1
758123⅝	7076⅞	Anglo Amer Plat	7076⅞	- 155½	0.8	27.9
2266	1666½	**Ang Am**	2171	- 5	3.6	8.6
173½	68½	Anglo Asian Mng♦	148½	- 4½	3.6	12.0
1022½	738	**Antofagasta**	928⅜	- 9¾	3.6	18.8
2⅝	1½	Ariana Res♦	2⅜	...	...	6.2
1½	⅞	Arkle Resources♦	1⅛	...	...	-4.3
3⅝	⅞	Armadale Cap♦	3⅜	...	...	...
8¼	1¾	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	2¼	...	...	-1.7
242	183½	Atalaya Mine♦	192	...	...	8.6
22⅛	5½	Avocet#	13	+ ⅜	...	-0.2
⅜	...	Baron Oil♦#	...	...	...	-0.7
8¼	4¼	Beowulf Mining♦	5¼	...	...	...
⅛	...	Bezant Res♦	⅛	...	...	-2.4
2049	1563	**BHP Group**	1790⅛	- 20½	4.4	13.6
3	1⅛	Border & Sthn Pet♦	1½	...	...	-4.6
26⅛	4⅞	Bougainville	16	- 1¾	...	...
31⅞	4⅞	BowLeven♦	6	+ ⅛	...	-0.3
582½	462⅜	**BP**	478½	- 5⅜	6.9	25.2
975	6⅝	Cadence Min♦	6¾	+ ⅛	...	-0.7
13¼	4½	Cadogan Petrol	5¼	...	...	3.9
213¾	143	Cairn Energy	204	- ¾	...	-2.6
646	371	Caledonia Mining♦	607	...	3.6	1.9
13¾	4⅞	Caspian Sunrise♦	7⅝	...	...	...
152¼	79¾	Centamin	123¼	+ 5⅞	3.5	34.1
266½	180	Cent Asia Metals♦	220½	+ 2½	6.7	9.4
38½	24¼	Chaarat Gold♦	35⅛	...	...	-7.2
5⅛	2⅛	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	3¼	+ ⅛	...	-1.0
20¼	2½	China Nonferrous Gold Ltd♦	15⅛	+ ⅝	...	-6.9
1⅜	⅛	Clontarf Energy♦	1	...	...	...
4⅞	2¼	Columbus Energy♦	3⅜	...	...	...
31	16⅞	Condor Gld♦	19¼	+ ¼	...	-8.0
4167¼	39	DRDGOLD	39	- 1	...	60.9
1⅜	½	ECR Minerals♦	⅝	...	...	-4.0
10⅞	7⅞	Empyrean Energy♦	8⅛	...	...	...
23⅜	15¼	EnQuest	21⅝	+ ½	...	2.8
4	⅜	Eurasia Mining♦	3¾	...	...	...
3⅞	1⅝	Europa Oil&Gas♦	2½	...	...	...
709⅜	341⅜	**Evraz**	399⅝	- ¾	20.8	4.6
56	40⅝	Exillon Energy#	41⅛	- 1¼	...	1.8
301¼	123	Ferrexpo	157¾	+ 2⅝	4.9	2.6
3⅝	⅜	Firestone Dmds♦	⅝	...	...	-0.4
1027½	539½	Fresnillo	640⅛	+ 20⅜	3.3	31.4
41⅞	2⅝	G3 Exploration	15⅜	...	...	-1.4
6½	1⅜	Galantas Gold♦	1⅜	...	...	-2.2
38¼	11½	GCM Resources♦	12	+ ⅛	...	-1.9
114	49½	Gem Diamonds	51	...	...	15.7
32	22½	GETECH♦	26½	...	...	20.7
340¼	216⅞	**Glencore**	237¼	- 1⅜	6.6	43.1
1⅞	1⅛	Global Petrol♦	1⅜	...	...	-2.0
51002⅞	508⅛	Gold Fields	508⅛	+ 3⅞	0.4	58.8
4⅛	2⅛	Goldplat♦	2⅜	...	...	-1.8
2¼	1⅜	Goldstone Res♦	1½	...	...	-6.8
2⅜	1⅜	Greatld Gld♦	1¾	...	...	...
112½	68½	Griffin Mining♦	68½	...	...	12.2
269½	177¾	Gulf Keystone	212½	+ ½	2.6	8.3
7⅞	2½	Hardy Oil & Gas	5⅛	- ¾	...	...
249½	141¾	Highlnd Gd Mn♦‡	192⅝	+ 1	7.0	12.8
227	152	Hochschild	176	+ 6¾	1.7	74.6
5	1⅝	Horizonte Minrls♦	3⅞	...	...	...
28½	13	Hummingbird Res♦	21	...	...	-5.4
657	363¾	Hunting	423⅜	- 1½	1.6	10.6
68¾	9	Hydrodec♦	10¼	...	...	-0.3
38½	15½	Ilika♦	30½	+ 1½	...	...
9⅜	2	Independ Res♦	2¼	...	...	-0.5
292	247	Indus Gas♦	285	+ 5	...	18.5
1¾	¼	Infrastrata♦	¼	...	...	-3.2
3	½	Ironveld♦	¾	...	...	-8.6
76⅜	18⅝	ITM Power♦	70½	+ 2	...	...
64½	22⅛	JKX Oil & Gas	24¾	...	...	4.6
4½	2¼	Jubilee Metals♦	3¾	...	...	8.1
4¼	1⅝	Karel Diamd Res♦	3	...	...	-3.2
738⅜	380¼	Kaz Minerals	544⅜	- 1½	1.7	6.9
1⅞	⅝	Kefi Minerals♦	1¼	...	...	-0.1
256	177	Kenmare Res	233	- 4	...	7.0
69½	20½	Lamprell	37⅛	- 2	...	-1.6
1	½	Landore Res♦	⅝	...	...	-2.3
2⅝	⅝	Lansdowne O&G♦	⅝	...	...	...
67½	28½	MC Mining♦	28½	...	...	-1.5
1½	¼	Metals Explorn♦	1⅛	...	...	-0.1
2¾	1	Nostra Terra♦	1	...	...	-2.1
138⅜	10⅛	Nostrum O&G	17	+ ¾	...	-0.3
⅞	...	Nu-Oil and Gas♦	...	...	...	-0.5
448⅜	336⅜	Oil Search	393⅛	- 2⅝	2.0	17.9
¼	...	Oilex♦	⅛	...	...	-2.5
½	¼	Oriole Resources♦	⅜	...	...	-2.1
5	1¾	Ormonde Mining♦	2¾	+ ⅛	...	-6.2
6¼	2⅜	Orosur Mining♦	3	...	...	-3.9
24	6	Ovoca Bio♦	11¾	+ ¾	...	-5.2
14½	8½	Pan African Res♦‡	11½	+ ¼	...	7.4
29	14⅝	Pantheon Res♦	17	+ 1¼	...	-6.8
72½	33½	Parkmead Grp♦	46⅝	...	...	19.2
45	6¼	Petra Diamonds	8¾	+ ⅛	...	-0.5
24	¾	Petrel Resources♦	15¼	- 4¼	...	...
8¾	2¼	Petro Matad♦	3¾	...	...	-1.9
559	374⅜	Petrofac	384½	+ 1⅞	7.6	7.6
1⅜	½	Petroneft Res♦	1¼	...	...	-1.4
13⅛	6¼	Petropavlovsk	12⅝	...	...	6.7
76⅞	48	Pharos Energy	53⅛	+ 2	10.2	...
25½	9	Phoenix Global♦	19	...	...	...
60	22	Plexus Holdings♦	29	+ 1½	3.4	-9.2
1272	772½	**Polymetal Intl**	1193	+ 3½	3.1	20.5
662	409	Porvair	632	- 16	0.7	26.7
106⅛	60⅞	Premier Oil	96⅞	- ⅜	...	8.6
40	6¼	Proton Motor Power Systems♦	23	...	...	-0.4
15⅜	2¾	Providence Res♦	2⅞	...	...	-2.4
3¼	⅞	Rambler Met&Min♦	2½	...	...	-1.2
⅝	⅜	Red Rock Res♦	⅜	...	...	...
3½	...	Regency Mines♦	3¼	...	...	-6.4
¼	...	Richland Res♦	⅛	...	...	-4.8
5714⅛	4091½	Rio Tinto Ltd	5420⅝	- 48½	4.4	8.7
4976½	3643	**Rio Tinto**	4507	- 41½	5.3	7.2
28	14	Rockhopper Expln♦	14⅞	- ¼	...	-5.3
2⅞	1	Rose Petroleum♦	1	...	...	-1.9
2612	2144½	**Ryl Dtch Sh A**	2245	- 20½	6.7	11.0
2622	2126½	**Ryl Dtch Sh B**	2247½	- 23½	6.7	11.0
42¾	25½	San Leon Energy♦	27⅞	...	...	...
3647	2362⅜	Schlumberger	3073⅞	+ 23⅝	5.2	-6.2
89	23⅝	Serabi Gold♦	62	...	...	...
143⅜	103½	Serica Energy♦	131⅛	- 1¾	...	3.8
10⅛	4⅝	Shanta Gold♦	9½	...	...	...
24⅛	2¾	Sirius Minerals	3½	...	...	2.8
2⅜	1¼	Solo Oil♦#	2⅜	...	...	-6.3
30¾	1⅞	Sound Energy♦	1⅞	...	...	-1.0
4¾	2⅛	Spitfire Oil♦	2½	+ ¼	...	-0.9
12¼	8⅝	Sterling Energy♦	8¾	...	...	...
⅛	...	Sunrise Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-3.3
½	⅛	Tertiary Minerals♦	⅛	...	...	-0.3
1⅜	⅛	Thor Mining♦	⅜	...	...	-4.5
4445⅞	3690½	Total SA	4208½	- 30	5.5	14.4
1¼	¼	Tower Resources♦	⅜	...	...	-1.1
54½	23½	Tri-Star Res♦	33½	...	...	...
250	39⅞	Tullow Oil	64⅝	...	5.9	8.8
335	105	URU Metals♦	185	- 20	...	-0.8
½	...	Vast Res♦	¼	...	...	-0.7
24	6	Victoria Oil&Gas♦	6¼	+ ⅛	...	-1.1
96	28½	Volga Gas♦	38	+ ½	25.8	15.0
½	¼	W Resources♦	¼	...	...	-5.7
21	8½	Westmount Engy♦	14¼	...	...	10.1
598½	319½	Wood Grp (J)	404⅞	+ 10⅜	6.7	59.9
7⅝	4⅞	Woodbois♦	5¾	...	...	...
1¾	½	Xtract Resources♦	⅞	...	...	-5.7
...	...	ZCI	...	...	...	...

Professional & support services

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
3470	1800	4imprint Grp	3470	- 30	1.5	32.7
98⅛	41¼	AA	58½	+ 1	3.4	6.8
855¾	693⅛	Aggreko	847⅛	- 9⅜	3.2	17.4
770	481	Andrews Sykes♦	620	...	3.8	17.4
2450	1615½	**Ashtead**	2405	- 41	1.4	14.0
22½	19½	Asimilar Group♦	22½	+ 3	...	...
375	255	AssetCo♦	360	...	...	33.4
37	26½	Avisen♦	27½	...	...	...
90	57½	Begbies Traynor‡	90	+ 3	2.7	42.8
2¾	1⅝	Billing Services♦	2	+ ¼	...	-0.5
172½	87½	Blancco Tech♦	171	- ½	...	...
2551	1943	**Bunzl**‡	2084	- 33	2.4	20.9
183	99⅞	Capita	165½	- ⅞	...	11.5
...	...	Carillion#	14⅛	- 5¾	129.9	...
34½	23½	CEPS♦	31½	+ 1½	...	-6.7
125	86½	Christie Group♦	114½	- 3	2.6	13.9
2138	1583	**Compass**	1905	+ 1½	1.9	25.8
45½	27⅞	Connect Gp	34⅞	- ⅛	8.8	-2.0
650	515	CPL Resources♦	650	+ 10	2.0	9.4
7496	5890	**DCC**	6522	- 78	2.1	26.9
457½	123¾	De La Rue	144½	+ 5½	17.2	48.2
759½	469⅛	Dignity	599½	- ½	4.0	24.3
2074	1155	Diploma‡	2040	- 44	1.2	40.0
574	353	Discoverie PLC‡	574	+ 16	1.6	26.8
78	51	Driver Group♦	69½	+ ½	0.7	0.1
129	115½	DWF	123	...	...	27.3
729¾	480	Electrocompnts‡	679⅜	- 1	2.1	20.7
236⅛	186⅛	Equiniti Group	211⅜	- ½	2.5	31.0
449	334⅛	Essentra	435	+ 1½	4.7	28.8
2631	1850½	**Experian**	2570	- 23	1.4	39.6
7070	4800	**Ferguson**	6886	- 148	2.2	18.4
328	273	FIH Group♦‡	313	...	1.6	13.3
234¼	168¼	G4S	214¼	- 2	4.5	85.7
167¼	106½	Gattaca♦	123½	- ½	...	25.2
13½	8¾	Grafenia♦	9½	...	...	-2.9
315	221	Hargeaves Serv♦	285	+ 1	2.5	...
183	136½	Hays	182⅛	- 1¼	2.1	16.6
36½	30	HML Hldgs♦	32½	...	1.4	12.0
1291	862	Homeserve‡	1269	- 17	1.6	38.8
577½	355	Impellam Grp♦	365	...	...	25.8
192	116	Ince G♦	116	- 2	5.1	-5.0
5962	4608	**Intertek**	5840	- 50	1.7	32.6
439½	205⅝	IWG	439½	+ 1¼	1.4	36.9
201½	116	Johnson Srvce♦	196¾	- ⅛	1.5	26.5
70	...	JOURNEO♦	54	...	...	-5.1
535½	61⅝	Kier Gp	96	- ¾	52.1	-0.6
967½	642½	Latham (J)♦	965	...	1.8	16.0
716	395	Lok'n Store♦‡	716	+ 7	1.5	62.2
2450	1920	Lon Security♦	2180	...	3.6	16.4
288	188	LSL Prop Services	262	+ 2	4.1	27.5
109	71½	Macfarlane	107	- ½	2.1	18.6
577½	385	Maintel Hldgs♦	407	...	8.4	15.0
5¼	½	Malvern Intl♦	⅞	+ ⅛	...	-1.4
2	1½	Management Cns	1⅝	+ ⅛	...	...
365	223	Mears Group	290	- 5	4.2	13.4
575	381½	Menzies (John)	472	- 2½	4.3	...
12¼	1¼	Mi-Pay Gp♦	1¼	...	...	-3.1
168¼	110½	MITIE Gp‡	144	- ½	2.7	16.3
3⅝	1¾	MobilityOne♦	2⅞	...	...	6.1
1⅝	¾	Nakama Gp♦	¾	...	...	17.0
1½	⅝	Newmark Sec♦	1½	...	...	35.7
77½	57½	Norish♦	77	+ 1	1.9	13.0
12¾	4½	Norm Broadbent♦	7¼	...	...	-8.5
77½	58½	Northern Bear♦	72	...	4.5	5.8
404¾	296½	Northgate‡	314½	- 2	5.8	8.8
189	136½	NWF Grp♦	180	+ 5	3.5	12.9
539	367¾	PageGroup	522	- 11½	2.5	15.4
36	17¼	PCI-PAL♦	35	...	...	-3.4
28½	14½	Petards♦	14½	...	...	10.2
15	9	PHSC♦	15	+ 1	6.6	...
½	¼	PowerHouse Egy♦	½	...	...	-4.2
120½	74	Prime People♦	120½	...	4.3	10.1
41⅛	27¼	Record	39	- ⅞	5.9	13.3
6¼	¾	RedT Energy♦#	1	...	...	-0.8
558	339½	Renew Hldgs♦	558	+ 44	1.7	19.3
37	21⅞	Renewi‡	36½	- ½	3.9	-3.0
467¾	324	**Rentokil Itl**	455½	- 9⅛	0.9	...
556	262	Restore♦	548	- 2	1.0	33.4
816	572	Ricardo	768	- 22	2.7	20.8
666	448	Robert Walters	580	- 10	2.5	12.4
304¼	188⅜	Royal Mail‡	230⅝	- 3¾	10.8	7.1
194½	107⅜	RPS Group	170	- 1	5.8	16.5
71	50	RTC Group♦	60	+ 5½	6.4	6.8
670	450	RWS Hldgs♦	620	- 9	1.2	46.2
246	185½	Science Group♦	246	+ 5	1.8	22.9
165	95½	Serco Gp	162⅞	- ¾	...	35.8
2950	2080	**Smurfit Kappa**	2932	- 34	2.9	...
1194⅝	81	Staffline Gp♦	88⅛	+ 2⅛	11.9	-1.0
370	250½	SThree	370	...	3.9	13.0
220	145½	Synectics♦	152½	...	3.0	16.4
7⅛	2¼	Tanfield♦	3½	+ 1	...	...
31	25½	Thruvision Group♦	28	...	...	...
79⅞	57½	Tribal♦	60½	+ 1½	1.8	26.3
5½	3⅜	Universe Grp♦	5¼	...	...	15.0
167½	103	Vianet♦‡	157½	...	3.6	17.9
1060	696	Vp‡	940	...	3.2	14.9
16⅞	6	Westminster♦	11¾	- ⅜	...	...

Retailing

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
131	57	AO World	91¾	- 3½	...	...
4066	2107	ASOS♦	3316	+ 7	...	...
420⅞	280	B&M European	412	- 4⅜	1.8	31.4
160	85⅛	Brown (N)	160	+ 9⅛	4.4	...
70	53	Cambria Auto♦‡	69	...	1.4	8.2
209	148⅞	Card Factory	148⅞	- 6⅜	6.2	10.6
34	4¼	Carpetright	4¾	- ⅛	...	-0.6
7¼	3¼	CPPGroup♦	3½	...	...	...
1160	395	CVS Group♦	1149	- 1	0.4	99.0
750	436⅞	Dairy Farm Intl	436⅞	- ¾	3.7	81.5
290½	181¾	DFS Furn	288	+ 1½	...	34.2
1173	535	Dunelm	1170	+ 5	2.3	23.4
474½	214	Frasers Group	456⅜	- 12¾	...	21.2
47⅜	31	French Conn	37⅛	...	...	33.8
2476	1263	Greggs	2292	- 4	1.5	30.8
278½	151⅞	Halfords‡	171⅜	- 3	10.8	8.2
685¾	435½	Howden Join	672½	- 2½	1.7	20.7
713½	545½	Inchcape	707	- 11½	3.7	54.8
13⅛	1	IQ-AI	4	- ⅛	...	...
834⅜	339⅛	**JD Sports**‡	832⅛	- 12	0.2	31.3
266⅛	185⅞	**Kingfisher**	219	- ⅞	4.9	25.1
108	41½	Lookers	56⅝	- ¼	7.2	7.9
289⅞	163⅞	Marks Spencer‡	216	- 1½	6.2	47.0
245¾	176⅞	**Morrison (W)**	202½	- 1½	3.2	15.7
27½	17⅛	Moss Bros	22⅞	+ ¼	6.5	-5.4
24	8⅜	Mothercare	17	...	...	-0.7
318	213	Naked Wines♦‡	222½	+ 2½	0.9	...
7340	3991	**Next**‡	7128	- 142	2.3	15.8
1435	768	**Ocado Gp**	1273	- 12½	...	...
28⅜	9	Pendragon	12⅝	- ⅛	11.8	-0.8
283	115¾	Pets at Home‡	276	- ¾	2.7	27.8
125¼	33	Saga	51¾	- ¾	7.7	-2.8
293⅞	177	**Sainsbury J**	234⅜	- 1⅜	4.6	...
2628	1720	Smith WH	2626	- 28	2.1	27.0
4635	2490¾	Sothebys	4635	- ¾	...	35.9
4	2	Stanley Gbbns♦	3¾	...	...	-6.0
260	154	Studio Retail Group	236½	- ½	...	8.7
2120	346	Ted Baker	420½	+ ¾	13.9	...
258⅞	190	**Tesco**	255½	- ½	2.2	19.0
84½	60¾	Topps Tiles‡	73⅛	+ ⅛	4.6	16.9
161½	112½	Total Produce♦	120	...	2.5	10.0
5⅞	4½	Utd Carpets♦	5⅞	...	7.1	11.5

Technology

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1⅞	⅝	Abal Group♦#	¾	+ ⅛	...	0.1
60	48½	Access Intell♦	51½	...	...	...
167	73½	Alfa Financial	119	- 1	...	22.8
84⅛	44⅛	Allied Minds	50	...	...	2.8
135	75½	Amino Techs♦	135	+ 2	5.6	11.9
694¾	388½	Aptitude Software Group	634	- 6	1.1	24.2
4716	2284	**AVEVA Grp**	4670	- 52	0.9	...
150½	76½	Bango♦	136½	...	...	...
54	36½	BATM Adv Coms	36½	- 1⅜	...	80.0
29	8	Berkeley Res	11¾	...	...	2.2
18	5¼	Blackbird♦	17¼	+ ¼	...	...
64½	3¾	Brady♦	17⅝	...	...	-4.8
27½	18	BSD Crown	24½	- 1	...	13.9
3½	1⅞	CloudBuy♦	2⅛	...	...	-1.4
1⅝	1¼	CloudCoCo Group♦	1⅜	+ ⅛	...	-0.7
433	271	CML Micro	351	- 2	2.2	39.5
1829	965	Computacenter	1780	- 21	1.7	24.8
81	62½	Concurrent Tech♦	75	+ ½	3.0	12.7
12¾	2½	Corero♦	6⅛	...	...	-5.2
3175	1720	Craneware♦	2480	+ 80	1.0	57.3
3	2	Crimson Tide♦	2⅜	...	...	82.7
9¾	1½	CyanConn Hldgs♦	3⅜	+ 1¼	...	-1.5
278	181½	D4t4 Solutions♦‡	218½	+ 7½	1.3	27.4
63½	20	Dillistone Group♦	24½	...	...	...
85½	66	Elecosoft♦	79	+ 1	0.8	29.2
1062	647	FDM Group	1052	- 6	2.8	29.8
10	5¼	Filtronic♦	9	- ½	...	...
3555	2050	First Derivts♦	2755	- 65	0.9	54.6
790	420	GB Group♦	789	+ 10	0.3	90.6
122½	65½	GreshamTech	122½	...	0.4	...
228	115	IndigoVision♦	175	...	...	13.5
94	64½	Ingenta♦	79½	...	1.8	...
50½	16½	Intercede♦	49½	+ ½	...	49.5
398	316½	Iomart♦‡	380	...	1.9	30.1
98	41¾	IQE♦	49¼	- 1	...	...
227	142½	K3 Business Tch♦	144½	...	1.0	...
1130¾	750	LG Electronics‡	930¼	+ 7⅝	2.8	5.4
2160	1004	Micro Focus Intl	1096¾	+ 18	8.0	6.5
39½	16½	MTI Wireless♦	37	- ½	3.2	14.0
55	8½	Nanoco Gp	13⅝	...	...	-8.9
12¾	10⅝	Nasstar♦	12¾	...	0.7	...
59	22⅛	Netcall♦‡	38¾	+ 1¼	1.3	94.6
55	28	Northamber♦‡	53	...	0.3	...
30½	13½	Online Blockchain♦	13½	- ½	...	-2.4
106	71½	Oxford Metrics♦‡	106	...	1.4	32.7
10¼	6⅝	Parity♦	10	...	...	...
133	56½	Pennant Intl♦	85	...	...	...
457⅝	360½	Playtech	397⅞	- 4⅞	5.4	48.8
142	28½	Proactis Hldgs♦	48	...	2.9	9.0
362½	267	QinetiQ	359⅜	- 5	1.7	17.9
310	203	RM	286	+ 4	2.6	12.9
820⅜	572⅛	**Sage Gp**	749⅜	- 7⅜	2.2	26.1
5⅜	2⅞	Seeing Machines♦	4⅞	...	...	-5.3
315	137½	Shearwater Grp♦	215	...	...	...
13	7¼	SimiGon♦	9	...	...	-5.7
92½	59½	Smartspace Software♦	59½	...	...	-3.9
1176	570	Softcat	1163	- 9	1.1	33.8
577	298⅛	Sophos Gp	561½	- 1	0.7	...
243	115⅜	Spirent Comms	243	- 6	1.4	32.9
55	28¾	SRT Marine♦	55	...	...	23.5
3⅜	1⅞	Tavistock♦	2	...	0.4	...
789⅞	611	Tele. Ericsson	667⅜	- 11⅞	1.2	...
190	116½	Telit Comms♦	157¾	- ⅜	...	13.0
46½	31½	Touchstar♦	37½	+ 6	...	-3.6
720	585	Tracsis♦	710	...	0.2	41.1
36	15½	TRAKm8 Hldgs♦	23	...	...	-3.7
55	34½	Triad Grp	35½	...	5.6	6.5
1¾	¾	UK Oil & Gas♦	⅞	...	...	-2.6
8⅜	4⅝	Wameja♦	4¾	- ⅛	...	-3.9
781	338	WANdisco♦	442	+ 6	...	...
407	230	Water Intel♦	270	...	...	36.5
162⅜	41	Xaar	55	+ 1	1.8	-0.6
13¾	8¾	Yourgene♦	13¼	...	...	8.2
122	43½	Zoo Digital♦	64½	- 2	...	28.6

Telecoms

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
400	305	AdEPT Technology Group♦	333	...	2.9	59.1
240	158⅞	**BT Group**‡	193¼	- 2⅞	7.9	8.8
150	104⅞	Dixons Carphone‡	145¼	- 1⅝	...	6.8
8⅝	2½	EVR Holdings♦	5	...	...	-4.7
⅝	...	Mobile Streams♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
5¼	3⅛	Mobile Tornado♦	3¾	- ⅛	...	...
115	62	MXC Capl♦	81	...	...	...
126½	96½	TalkTalk	117⅛	- 2	2.1	36.6
1534	1130	Telecom Plus	1504	- 8	3.4	34.9
165⅛	123¼	**Vodafone Gp**‡	148½	- 2⅜	5.3	...

Transport

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
97⅛	68½	Air Partner	94½	+ 1½	5.9	16.0
233½	162	Braemar Ship	215½	+ 4½	6.9	...
3010	1900	Clarkson	3010	- 10	2.4	29.3
1750	709½	Dart♦‡	1704	+ 8	0.6	16.7
1501	854¾	**easyJet**	1421½	+ 1	4.1	16.1
1¾	⅛	FastJet♦	⅛	...	...	...
137½	82	FirstGroup	128½	- 2⅜	...	-6.6
2260	1734	Fisher (James)	2030	- 25	1.5	23.0
2278	1510	Go-Ahead	2208	- 54	4.6	16.1
667½	413½	**Intl Cons Air**	625	- 5	4.3	6.6
453¼	305⅝	Irish Cont Uts	418⅝	...	2.7	16.8
475½	369	Natl Express	470½	- 5⅜	3.1	17.0
1280	810	Ocean Wilson	990	- 10	5.3	14.2
1247¼	725½	Ryanair	1240⅞	- ¾	...	17.5
327½	53¾	Signature Aviation	315	- 6	4.3	32.0
167	115½	Stagecoach	160⅛	- 2½	4.8	9.2
182⅛	100⅜	Stobart Gp Ord	110¾	- 2⅛	8.1	-6.9
27	19½	Sutton Harbour♦	23	...	...	13.6
304	219	Wincanton‡	304	+ 3	3.5	9.3
4013	2752	Wizz Air Hldgs	3896	- 44	...	11.9

Utilities

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
140½	64½	**Centrica**	90	- ⅜	13.3	-8.5
222½	159	ContourGlobal‡	210	+ 4½	6.3	89.1
413¾	251	Drax Group	316½	- 3¾	4.4	45.8
97	29¾	IGas Energy♦	47¼	+ ¾	...	-2.9
486	429	Jersey Electricity	449	...	3.3	11.6
...	...	KSK Power Vent#	2¼	- ¼	...	...
8¼	1	Modern Water♦	1¼	- ⅛	...	-0.7
965⅝	764⅛	**Natl Grid**‡	953½	- 7¾	4.9	22.3
27¼	14⅜	OPG Power♦	16⅜	...	...	3.7
1042	692¾	Pennon	1028½	+ 1½	3.9	18.5
1	½	Rurelec♦	⅝	...	...	-1.8
2548	1815½	**Severn Trent**‡	2548	+ 2	3.6	20.3
1467½	1008	**SSE**	1455½	- 12	6.7	8.6
961	736½	**Utd Utilities**‡	961	- 6⅜	4.1	18.0

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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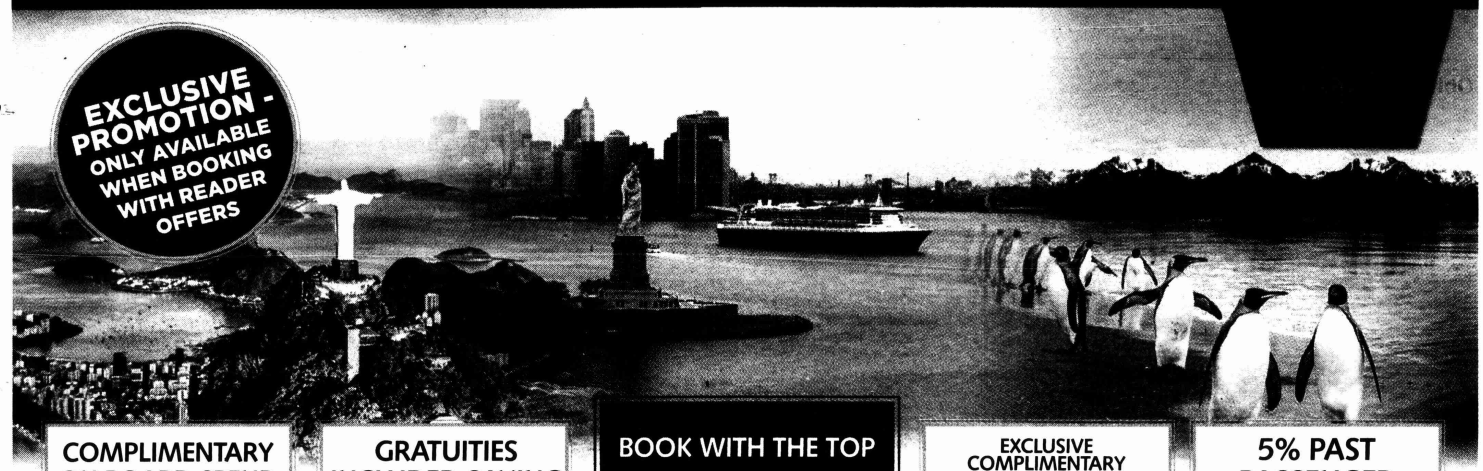

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Fri 25 - Sat 26 **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil** (overnight)

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Executive behind a famous boardroom coup at Next
Sir David Jones
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Register

Obituaries

Neil Innes

Whimsical musician and satirist who gave musical expression to the surreal humour of Monty Python

As a promising child pianist learning Chopin and Liszt, Neil Innes felt the first stirrings of rebellion in his soul. "I began to question who I was working for," he said of his adolescent self, "The answer was definitely not 'me'."

A lifetime of musical whimsy at the gentle expense of others would find its first expression several years later when Innes and a fellow art student Vivian Stanshall started performing in the canteen of the Royal College of Art, London, as the Bonzo Dog Dada Band (Doo Dah later replacing Dada because "no one had a clue what Dada meant").

Innes once said that he could not decide whether to be a serious musician or a clown. In the burgeoning world of social satire and psychedelia in late-Sixties London he was saved from having to make a choice and would draw a legion of admirers for his witty self-deprecation and music-hall pastiche. Yet he succeeded in his aim of escaping the fame and fortune that his talents deserved, even though members of Monty Python would be eager to bestow on him the title "the Seventh Python". This was as a result of his contributions to the writing of the show and his adding a musical dynamic to their surreal humour.

Innes always felt more comfortable parodying fame than embodying it. Arguably his greatest achievement was to co-create with Eric Idle a satirical homage to the Beatles — the Rutles. The concept started as a sketch in Idle's BBC series *Rutland Weekend Television* in 1975. Idle was Dirk McQuickly (McCartney) and Innes was Ron Nasty (Lennon).

However, Innes's songs parodied the "Pre-Fab Four's" journey from Merseybeat to psychedelia with such dexterity that the band started to tour — "Rutlemania" was in danger of erupting. Writing in *The Times* in 1996 Caitlin Moran said the original album was "lyrically sharp and wonderfully observed, and packed with more joyful melodies than you could shake a moptop at".

The project culminated in a 1978 "mockumentary", *All You Need is Cash*, which featured interviews with Mick Jagger and Paul Simon and inspired later music-industry parodies such as *Spinal Tap*. Innes and Idle's glorious fantasy was rudely invaded when the Beatles' publisher sued the Rutles and settled out of court. Life and art converged in the biggest satire of all.

Neil James Innes was born in the village of Danbury, Essex, in 1944 to Rita (née Hudson) and Edward Innes. Edward was a warrant officer in the Royal Artillery. He was also a fine amateur painter and encouraged Neil's artistic ambitions. The child attended Thorpe Grammar School in Norwich, taught himself to play guitar and enrolled at the Norwich School of Art. He won a place at Goldsmiths College, London, where he met his fellow student Yvonne Catherine Hilton. They would marry in 1966. She survives him with their sons Miles, Luke and Barney.

Innes recalled his arrival in south London as the perfect time to be young. "A lot of people at college had the best deals with their grants, and we'd missed National Service. You thought you could do anything."

MICHAEL PUTLAND/GETTY IMAGES; PIERRE VAUTHEY/GETTY IMAGES

Neil Innes performing in Watford in 1972. Below: second left in 1976 with the Pythons Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle and Terry Jones

Innes and his fellow troubadours including Stanshall and Rodney Slater decided to form a band that would meld music hall, jazz and conceptual art. As the only one with any real musical ability, Innes held the troupe together on the piano and contributed his own piece of surrealist silliness by wearing a sawn-off rubber duck on his head. Soon they were bewildering the locals at various public houses across London.

Promoters decided that Bonzo's dadaist excesses would provide the perfect foil for bands such as Pink Floyd, the Kinks and Led Zeppelin. They performed at the Fillmore West club in San Francisco at the height of psychedelia, but destroyed the loving vibes and "freaked out" the audience of hippies when the band member Roger Ruskin Spear exploded his false head on stage.

Bonzo were offered a recording contract and Innes recalled being "wheeled off" to Abbey Road Studios and feeling tickled by the incongruity of playing something silly on his piano while the Beatles were reinventing music by recording *Revolver* in an adjoining studio. However, Paul McCartney later took a liking to one of their songs, *I'm the Urban Spaceman*, and offered to produce the record. Innes and his colleagues insisted that McCartney take the credit Apollo C Vermouth. The Beatle's contribution was eventually uncovered and the song made it to No 5 in 1968. Innes, whose sad eyes and rubbery features were perfectly suited to sending up the stars, felt acutely embarrassed at the fame that followed. "I've never been a practising-with-a-cricket-bat-in-front-of-the-mirror sort of person," he said.

After Bonzo disbanded Innes segued into what would prove to be a fruitful collaboration with Monty Python. He started to write songs for the troupe's travelling shows, including a satire of a Bob Dylan "protest song" in which he would announce: "I've suffered for my music. Now it's your turn."

Innes wrote several sketches for the final Python series in 1974 and, with Douglas Adams, is one of only two non-Pythons to be credited for writing for the TV show. He would compose songs for the film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, released the next year, providing cheerful riffs on some of the more macabre aspects of medieval life. He is also thought to have provided the whistle for *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life* in the film *Monty Python's Life of Brian*.

Innes's reward for his musical silliness was to be given a series on BBC Two, *The Innes Book of Records*. It gave him the opportunity to anthologise his songs in a series of videos. The show ran for three series from 1979 and regularly attracted over seven million viewers.

At around this time Innes made the logical step for a man intent on musical insanity. He bought a rundown farmhouse in Suffolk, where he built a studio in which to hide himself away. Appropriately, the ramshackle property came with a pond full of ducks, which he called "the Taskforce". He would remain economically buoyed by royalty cheques, including one courtesy of Oasis. The band were forced to credit Innes as a co-writer of their hit *Whatever* on the basis that the chorus line appeared to borrow from Innes's 1973 song *How Sweet to Be an Idiot*.

When the Beatles released the retrospective album and documentary *Anthology* in 1995, the time seemed ripe to reprise the Rutles and release a new album. Once again the result was acclaimed. George Harrison, who had long been a friend, told Innes: "Milk it for all its worth — after all, two albums in 18 years is hardly opportunism." When Innes and Idle had a rare falling out over the financial aspects of the Rutles reboot, the real Beatle had the last laugh: "You're supposed to be sending us up, not emulating us."

In the Eighties Innes wrote and narrated a children's programme called *The Raggy Dolls* on ITV, and continued to tour Britain with his one-man show. Subjects for his gentle humour ranged from the punk rocker who sang, "Paranoia can annoy ya," to the "ego warrior" proto-environmentalist.

A gentle and soft-spoken man to the end, Innes was deeply grateful that his long association with showbusiness had not impacted on his contented private life. "I think I'm most proud of the fact that I've stayed married for all of these 40 years."

Neil Innes, musician, was born on December 9, 1944. He died of natural causes on December 29, 2019, aged 75

Andrew Miller

Hard-working MP who supported a constituent accused of killing a baby

The canvasser in the 1968 council elections caught Andrew Miller, a university laboratory technician, at just the wrong — or the right — moment. Miller was feeling hot under the collar about a landlord neighbour who he felt was taking advantage of a compulsory purchase order.

As he recalled: "I remember very distinctly this old guy, when I ranted at him about this unfairness, said, 'Well you really ought to do something about this yourself. Politics needs people to do something. If I were you, I'd join a political party.'" Having done so, Miller was elected in 1992 as Labour MP for Ellesmere Port and Neston, home of the Vauxhall car plant.

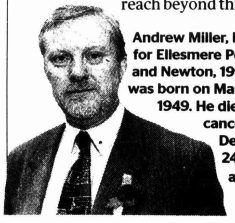
He came to prominence supporting his constituent Louise Woodward, a young au pair who in 1997 was convicted of second-degree murder by a US court after a nine-month-old baby died in her care. Her situation occupied much of Miller's energy — as agitator, fixer and PR man back home. Eventually her conviction was reduced to involuntary manslaughter on appeal and she flew into Heathrow in June 1998, greeting Miller with a warm hug.

Andrew Peter Miller was born in Isleworth, Middlesex, in 1949, the son of Ernest Miller, a civil service technician who in retirement joined the Conservatives, and his wife Daphne. After failing his 11-plus Miller was educated at Hayling Island Secondary School before becoming a laboratory technician in the department of geology at Portsmouth Polytechnic.

In 1975 he married Fran Keeble, a teacher who later worked in his constituency office. She survives him with their three children. In later years the family bought and restored a derelict house in Cheshire.

Having joined Labour, Miller took a diploma in industrial relations at the London School of Economics and became a divisional officer for the ASTMS union (later the MSF), moving to the northwest for work. Bearded, brown-suited and cigar-smoking, he took the Ellesmere Port and Newton seat in the 1992 election, overturning a Tory majority of about 2,000 with a similar margin. Five years later his majority was more than 16,000.

Other than the Woodward case, much of Miller's time in the Commons was taken up by five years as chairman of the regulatory committee and another five as chairman of the science and technology committee. "I have had fantastic fun doing that," he said of the latter, "and it has given me enormous reach beyond this place."



Andrew Miller, MP for Ellesmere Port and Newton, 1992-2015, was born on March 23, 1949. He died of cancer on December 24, 2019, aged 70

Register

Sir David Jones

Instigator of a boardroom coup at Next who lived with Parkinson's disease and was later embroiled in controversy at JJB Sports

GLENN COPUS/EVENING STANDARD/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

David Jones in 1990, two years after becoming chief executive of Next. In contrast to his predecessor, Jones eschewed rapid expansion. Below: at home in 2011

On the evening of December 8, 1988, David Jones and his supporters on the board of Next gathered for a hastily convened meeting at the offices of Slaughter and May, the City solicitors. Jones, a relatively unknown accountant, was by his own admission a "grey man" with a reputation for being "a safe pair of hands".

By contrast George Davies, Next's colourful chairman and chief executive, was an acclaimed visionary who had revolutionised fashion retailing in the UK and made Next into one of the biggest success stories of the 1980s. Yet by the end of 1988, Next was in crisis and its stock-market value had collapsed from a high of £1.3 billion to £25 million.

When the meeting began at 11pm, Davies and his wife, Liz, Next's product development director, were told that the company required a different style of management and were voted off the board. The putsch, which stunned the City, had taken only three minutes and was described by *The Sunday Times* as being "a carefully planned plot that would have done justice to a South American coup d'état".

Davies later declared his belief that his ousting had little to do with Next's financial position and everything to do with Jones's lust for power. He also pointed an accusing finger at the City which, he suggested, was obsessed with short-term profits over long-term growth. His views enjoyed plenty of support. Sir Terence Conran, the Storehouse chairman, spoke for many when he said that by "sacking George and his wife, the board have disposed of the company's greatest assets".

The move generated a storm of publicity and on one occasion Jones tried to avoid the press by leaving a meeting by a back door, only to be chased down the street by a horde of cameramen and journalists. Having sought sanctuary in a ladies' toilet, he found himself still pursued and had to squeeze through a window before escaping in a taxi.

In the next year Jones closed more than 100 underperforming stores, sacked 2,000 staff and reduced the number of clothing ranges. Determined to return the company to its roots, he carried out a savage restructuring programme that led to the closure or sale of peripheral businesses. He even took the painful decision to sell Grattan, his former employer, to Otto Versand of Germany. This proved

The press pursued him into a ladies' toilet. He fled through the window

a turning point, with the £165 million disposal helping to shore up Next's balance sheet and buy vital time.

Nonetheless, many analysts continued to question Jones's abilities. They changed their minds in March 1992 when the company announced profits of £12.3 million. Having overhauled stock control, improved window and store displays and decentralised the management structure, Jones suddenly found himself fêted in much the same way as Davies had been in his early days. Yet, in contrast to his predecessor, Jones eschewed rapid expansion and was fiercely protective of the core brand. He stepped down as chief executive in 2001 and after a year as deputy chairman became chairman.

Released from the burden of day-to-day management, Jones was then able to disclose the secret he had been keeping since 1982. Aged 39, he had Parkinson's disease diagnosed. Fearing it would destroy his career, he resolved to keep the illness to himself. In his autobiography, *Next to Me: Luck, Leadership and Living with Parkinson's* (2005), he wrote: "I didn't come clean for years. My wife didn't know for three years and my children for ten."

Through a daily cocktail of 40 pills, Jones was able to alleviate the symptoms at crucial moments, later describing how by manipulating drug doses he "would be on top form for a meeting and then a disaster afterwards". However, on one occasion, during a weekend visit to Davies's home in the south of France, Jones was forced to disclose his illness after his hand shook. Despite all that followed, Davies kept the information to himself.

David Charles Jones was born in Malvern, Worcestershire, in 1943, the son of Frederick, a watchmaker, and Annie, a school cook. David grew up in a cottage with an outside lavatory. He won a full scholarship to the King's School, Worcester, but left when he was 17. He joined Kays, the mail-order company, after a careers adviser told him: "They'll employ anybody."

His first job was as a temporary clerk, but after switching to the finance department he qualified as a chartered secretary and certified accountant through several years of correspondence courses. In 1967 he began dating Jeanette Crofts, known as Ann, who was working at Kays in her university holidays. The couple married a year later. She survives him with their daughter, Alison, a retail-marketing specialist, and sons, Richard and Stuart, who have both been involved in company management.

When Kays' finance director took early retirement, the 28-year-old Jones walked into the office of David (later Lord) Wolfson, the managing director, and asked for the job. Wolfson was unimpressed and, after taking one look at Jones, told him: "Shut the door on your way out." He quickly changed his mind and gave Jones a six-month trial. Thus began a successful relationship that would later be re-established at Next, where Wolfson became Jones's chairman.

In 1974 Jones became the assistant managing director of Kays. Three years later he was appointed chief executive of British Mail Order Corporation, but when asked his age the 34-year-old panicked and said 38. As a result, he had to lie for the rest of his time there. In 1981 he became chief executive of Grattan, a loss-making company that was suffering from labour problems and the cost of launching new catalogues. Unperturbed, Jones took out two gold credit cards and a £20,000 overdraft and acquired 220,000 shares, including options.

Under Jones's management Grattan's profitability rose sharply during the early 1980s. So much so that when it merged with Next in 1986 it was valued at £330 million. With the shares that he had bought for 32p now worth £5.40, Jones was a paper millionaire.

Appointed deputy chief executive at Next, Jones initially got on well with his chairman. Later he would complain that Davies did not believe in structured management, was autocratic, did not listen to advice and was too absorbed in new concepts. As well as buying Grattan, which Next used to launch the Next Directory, its home-shopping catalogue, the company had diversified into new areas, including interiors, accessories, flowers, jewellery and hairdressing. Davies had even bought hundreds of newsagents as dropping-off points for directory orders.

After a furious row with Davies at the end of 1988 over the future of the Next Directory business, Jones decided to take action. Before the late-night board meeting he called a family meeting,

A careers adviser told him to join Kays, saying, 'They'll employ anyone'

including the dog, Jodie, and told them of his plans. He recalled how Alison, who was about 16 at the time, said: "We've always supported you, Daddy, and we continue to support you. But don't you dare lose."

Jones was never going to produce a quick fix to Next's many problems. Yet in the long term he not only saved the company, but led it to new heights. By 2001 it was worth more than £3 billion and was recognised as one of Britain's leading retailers. He remained as chairman until 2006.

In May 2004 Jones became one of the first non-executive directors of the Morrisons supermarket group. Just like Next in 1988, Morrisons was a company dominated by its chairman. Sir Ken Morrison (obituary, February 2, 2017) had created a supermarket giant that for five decades had known nothing but growth and success. However, since the £3.3 billion acquisition of its much larger rival Safeway in 2003, the company had begun to stumble.

Jones's demands that Morrison should comply with modern rules of corporate governance were strongly resisted by the notoriously reactionary chairman and the pair had stand-up rows at board meetings, and some very public confrontations. After being forced on to the back foot by a series of profit warnings, Morrison reluctantly agreed to make Jones deputy chairman and make the required changes.

Jones became a director of JJB Sports in 2007, later serving as chairman until ill health forced him to step down in 2010. His time at the retailer was mired in controversy over an undisclosed personal loan of £1.5 million from Dave Whelan, the founder of JJB. In 2014 Jones was charged with forging a bank statement in relation to the loan, but the case was abandoned by a judge at Leeds Crown Court on the ground of Jones's poor health.

Jones, a founder of Movers and Shakers, which raises funds for the Cure Parkinson's Trust, lived in Ben Rhydding, West Yorkshire, in a magnificent house with a big garden and a snooker table. He served at various times as president of Yorkshire County Cricket Club and a director of Leicester Football Club. Although there was much interest in his Parkinson's diagnosis, he was not one for self-pity. "The way I look at life is to say there's a damn sight more people who are worse off and those are the ones I feel sorry for," he said.

Sir David Jones, former chairman and chief executive of Next, was born on February 2, 1943. He died from complications of Parkinson's disease on December 28, 2019, aged 76

Professor Paul Jarrett

Pioneer of hospital day surgery and a stickler for high standards

Paul Jarrett in the 1980s at Kingston hospital, where he developed a day-surgery unit. Below: in 1995

The idea that a patient would undergo surgery and be sent home the same day was revolutionary when it was first mooted in the 1970s. Yet with pressure to relieve hospital beds and cut waiting lists, a handful of visionary surgeons began to see ways of improving traditional surgical practice. Day surgery was born. Paul Jarrett was in the vanguard of that movement, becoming a worldwide name in the field and instrumental in its development across the UK and internationally.

Day surgery was initially devised to repair hernias under local anaesthetic. As pain control advanced, it expanded to include other procedures. Today, 80 per cent of elective surgery is done this way, with 6 million operations a year in England and Wales, including breast-lump and gall bladder removals, hysterectomies, knee operations, cataracts and ear, nose and throat procedures.

In 1978, as a consultant general surgeon at Kingston hospital in southwest London, Jarrett devised plans for the opening of one of the country's first day-surgery units, the largest in Europe. For some years his plans were viewed with suspicion by the overwhelmingly conservative medical profession, but by the late 1980s the benefits were becoming clear.

In 1988 Jarrett and a consultant anaesthetist, Dr Tom Ogg, met for lunch at the Garden House Hotel, Cambridge, and the idea of a multidisciplinary association to foster the practice was born. The British Association of Day Surgery (Bads), of which Jarrett was founding chairman, recently celebrated its 30th anniversary.

For two decades Jarrett was involved in the design and development of dozens of day units across the UK — each health trust now has one — and in ten other countries, as well as advising the Department of Health. He was ahead of his time in believing that many procedures could be done by nurses and set up the first courses in the country to train nurses in day surgery.

Despite being a modernising revolutionary, Jarrett was by habit a traditionalist. He was of a passing generation of old-school surgeons who enjoyed the benefits of an NHS less driven by targets, where surgeons ruled supreme and worked in "firms" to the benefit, as he saw it, of patients because of the continuity of care that resulted.

Doctors in those days still wore white coats, and Jarrett, a stickler for standards, would

Like many doctors, Jarrett was not the best patient

upbraid junior doctors who turned up wearing stethoscopes slung around their necks (the instrument should be in a pocket) or dressed casually without a tie, although these days ties are banned. Yet grudges were not held and he was immensely kind to colleagues, nursing staff and doctors alike, going out of his way to help those with problems and to guide, advise and help.

Paul Eugene Marcus Jarrett was born in 1943 in Blackburn, Lancashire, the only son of Doris and her husband, Maurice, a research chemist in the paint industry. Paul attended Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn, then Downing College, Cambridge. He completed his training at St Thomas' hospital, London.

In 1977 he was appointed a consultant general surgeon with an interest in vascular surgery, a post he held until retirement in 2003. He was for some years the medical director at Kingston and two private hospital companies. He was also honorary consultant surgeon to the Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust and the New Victoria hospital, Kingston upon Thames.

Jarrett was a quiet man, but one of prodigious energy and application. As well as establishing Bads, he was a founding member of the International Association for Ambulatory Surgery. He also published and delivered 130 papers, and was joint editor-in-chief of the international journal *Ambulatory Surgery*.

Beyond work he had a love of collecting antiques, including medical and surgical instruments, but primarily clocks, that was triggered by a fascination, as a boy, with his uncle's Strumbel long-case clock. On retirement he was able to pursue this interest, attending night classes on the repair and restoration of clocks and becoming a member of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers, and its master in 2013. He was also elected as a freeman of the Company of Art Scholars.

Along with food and fine wine, travel was a great love and he visited many countries accompanied by his wife, Annie, the childhood sweetheart he had known from school days in Blackburn. She survives him with their son, Michael, also a consultant surgeon, who is married to Anna, an A&E consultant. Jarrett was devoted to his three grandchildren, who all paid tribute to him at his memorial service.

Like many doctors, Jarrett, a lifelong smoker, was not the best patient. He did not have a GP and only visited a doctor in the last weeks of his life. A colleague recalled his desperation on a drive back from a conference when he ran out of cigarettes. The petrol station they visited had only miniature cigars, which he settled for instead.

Work was his pleasure: he insisted that if you love your work, you do not need holidays. Evenings — and daytimes, after retirement — would find him sitting in his study, puffing away.

Professor Paul Jarrett, FRCS, was born on February 18, 1943. He died of cancer on October 22, 2019, aged 76

There is no Court Circular today.

Births, Marriages and Deaths

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NO ONE has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. John 6.46-47 (NIV)

Verses provided by the Bible Society

Births

FULFORD-SMITH On 22nd December 2019 to Charlotte (née Le Blanc-Smith) and George, a son, Wilbur George, brother to Oscar

ROBINSON-GRIFFITHS On 21st October 2019 to Beverley and Tom, a son, Johann Kit, brother to Hector Fox.

Forthcoming Marriages

MR H.M.N. BUNBURY AND MISS A.L. MARTIN
The engagement is announced between Henry, elder son of Sir Michael Bunbury Bt. and Lady Bunbury of Rendlesham, Suffolk and Alice, only daughter of Mr Julian Martin and the late Mrs Wishy Martin of Cappoquin, Co. Waterford.

MR C.E.G. CAMPBELL AND MISS F. ROBINSON
The engagement is announced between Colin, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Roy Campbell, of Gibraltar, and Flavia, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Robinson of Midhurst, West Sussex.

MR A.D. PAPADOPOULLOS AND MISS R.F.L. JONES
The engagement is announced between Andrew son of the late Mr Adonis Papadopoullos and of Mrs Papadopoullos of Chilcompton Somerset and Rosanna daughter of Mr and Mrs John Jones of Eccleshall Staffordshire

MR S. SHETTY AND DR G.M. AISBITT

Jon and Julia Aisbitt are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter, Georgina, to Sowhardh, son of Karunakar and Mallika Shetty.

Deaths

ANDERSON CB Alistair Andrew Gibson, died peacefully on 8th December 2019, aged 92. Loving husband of Maggie (d 2013), much loved father of David, Fiona and Katy, grandfather and great grandfather. Funeral service took place in Shrewsbury on 19th December. Donations to Royal Signals Benevolent Fund via H.Q. R Signals, Griffin House, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

BIRON Moreen (née Compton) at home on 9th December, aged 95. Beloved wife of the late Tim and much loved mother of Anne, John and Elizabeth, grandmother, great grandmother and sister of the late Sheila Compton M.B.E. Funeral on 14th January 11.30 am at St Dunstan's, Mayfield. Donations in lieu of flowers for The Royal British Legion and Friends of St Dunstan's Church c/o Paul Bysouth & Son, Funeral Directors, 9 Croft Road, Crowborough TN6 1DL.

DARBY Pauline Mabel (née Terrell) died peacefully on 26th December 2019, aged 95 of Emerson Park, Hornchurch at Abbotswood Care Home Romsey Wife of the late Leslie, adored mother of Jill and Michael, mother-in-law to Roger, grandmother to James, Anna and Emma, and great grandmother to Dora, Ted and Leo. Funeral service 12 noon Friday 24 January 2020 St Mary's Michelmersh. Family flowers only

DE CAMBORNE LUCY William (Bill) died suddenly on 1st December 2019, aged 70 Dearest Husband of Gillian, much loved Father of James, Nicholas, Edward, Rebecca, Simone and Thomas and dearest Grandpa. He will be greatly missed. Funeral at Headcorn Church, Kent on Friday 3rd January, 2020 at 1pm. Further information from Family Funeral Services 01622 962 001

ELLIOTT Teddy (Denys) on 24th December 2019, aged 87. Darling husband of Sally; much loved father of Rupert, Lucy and Annabel; and wonderful grandfather to Eliza, Hector, Ivo, Albert, Rose, Nicky, Sebastian, Thomas and Martha. Funeral to be arranged.

GEE Robert George died peacefully on 13th December 2019, at Bronglais Hospital, Aberystwyth on Friday 13th December 2019 after a short illness. Dearly loved and much missed by all his family. Funeral service will be held at St. Hilary's Church, Trefilan, Lampeter, Ceredigion at 1.00pm on Friday 3rd January 2020. Family flowers only donations if desired towards The Royal British Legion may be given to Gwilym C. Price Son & Daughters, 1 & 2 College Street, Lampeter. SA48 7DY (0157 0422673)

HALL Michael John passed away peacefully on 23rd December 2019, aged 87. Of Warminster, Hong Kong and Dulwich. Dearly loved and loving husband of Philippa, father of Andrew, Penelope and Nicola, grandfather of Michael, Digby, Roland, Joe, Magnus and Archie, and father-in-law of Bruce and Cynthia. Former Secretary of the Institution of Highway Engineers, and General Secretary of the Metals Society. Private family cremation. Donations if desired to the National Autistic Society or Down's Syndrome Association.

JENKINSON Barry died peacefully on 22nd December 2019, aged 86. Adored husband, father, grandfather & great-grandfather. Thanksgiving service to be arranged.

KEEFFE Barrie died on 10th December 2019, aged 74, playwright and screenwriter. Beloved husband of Jacky and stepfather to Sam and Tom Proud. Funeral at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, WC2 9 ED, on 7th December, 3pm. Funeral Directors Levertons, tel: 0207 387 6075.

LOCKYER Frances Robina died peacefully at the Richmond Nursing Home Witney on 20th December 2019, aged 94. Much loved mother of Sarah and Victoria, sister to Valerie, grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral at 12 noon on Wednesday 15th January 2020 at St Peter and St Paul's, Broadwell, GL7 3QS. Family flowers only with donations, if you wish, to MIND.

MEREDITH Philip died on 21st December 2019, aged 81. Philip displayed great resilience and grace in the face of his long-term cancer. He was able to remain at home surrounded by his beloved family, with the support of Hospice in the Weald, and Crowborough District Nurses. Madelyn, Oliver, Benjamin and Alexander thank them for their dedicated care. A private committal service will take place shortly, and a gathering of happy remembrance will be arranged in 2020.

MUNRO Neil John Tarry on 12th December 2019, aged 83 peacefully at home. Much loved father to Angus, grandfather to Grace and Celyn, brother to Jean. Funeral at Mortlake Crematorium, Richmond TW9 4EN at 2p.m. on 8th January. Family flowers only, donations to Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

NORMAN Denis Robert on 20th December 2019, Dearly beloved husband of June and adored father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral service at All Saints Church, Middleton Stoney, Oxfordshire OX25 4AW at 11am on Wednesday 8 January 2020. No flowers; donations to Rennie Grove Hospice Care or ZANE.

PAYNE James "Jim" Gladstone Peacefully at home at "Ardvar", on Wednesday 25 December 2019, beloved husband of Margaret, a much loved father of Nicky, Michael and Philippa, father-in-law of Sophie, loving grandfather to his 10 grandchildren and 4 four great grandchildren, brother to the late Gillian Goodwin (Wellington, NZ) Private burial at Ardvar. A Thanks Giving Service will be held in Lochinver in March. Date to be arranged.

RANSOM Michael died peacefully on 21st December 2019, aged 88. Much loved husband, father and grandfather. Service of Thanksgiving for his life at St Mary's Church, Hitchin on Friday 10th January 2020 at 2.30pm. Enquiries: Austins Funeral Service, Hitchin.

SCAMELL

Josephine (Jo) Marion (née Wilcock) of Kingstone near Ilminster, passed away peacefully on 12th December 2019. Dearly loved wife, mother, daughter and sister, who will be greatly missed by all her family, friends and colleagues. Private cremation. Service of thanksgiving at The Minster, Ilminster, on Monday 6th January 2020, at 3pm. Family flowers only. Donations to Kingstone Church and St Margaret's Hospice, Taunton, may be sent c/o A J Wakely & Sons (tel: 01460 52576)

YALE Rosemary Nesta (Del) on 17th December 2019, aged 90 at Alltwen Hospital, Tremadog. Beloved sister of David; sister in law of Ann; aunt of Mark and Andrew. Funeral private; a memorial meeting of thanksgiving will take place at Capel y Porth, Porthmadog at 2.30pm Thursday 9th January 2020. Donations if desired to Practical Action UK: further details via funeral directors Pritchard a Griffiths Cyf., Dublin Street, Tremadog. Tel 01766 512091.

YOUNG Gillian Margaret (née Campbell) died peacefully on 23rd December 2019, aged 94, surrounded by family. Much loved by her husband, Peter, her 4 children and a very special 'Gan Gan' to her 13 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Funeral to take place at 2.00pm at St Giles' Church, Shipbourne, Kent on Thursday 16 January. Family flowers only, please. Donations, if desired, to RNLI or Royal British Legion c/o E R Hickmott & Son on 01892 522462.

Legal Notices

LONDON ASHRIDGE CIRCLE

A membership society (established in 1949), we offer a varied calendar of events:

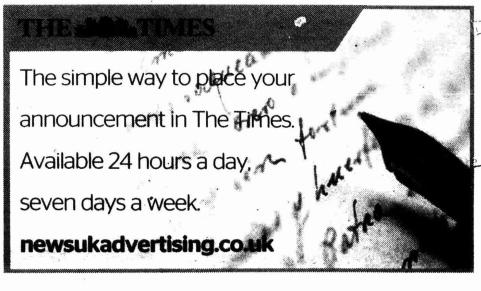
- Stimulating supper talks with expert speakers (held at the National Liberal Club, Westminster)

- Visits to contemporary and historic buildings, exhibitions and theatre.

- Social events and dining opportunities.

We welcome new members of all ages and interests.

For details of how to join us, visit our website www.londonashridgecircle.london or contact publicity@londonashridgecircle.london or 07788 838201



Weather

Today Drizzle, mist and fog patches in the southwest. Largely dry and bright elsewhere. Max 10C (50F), min -3C (27F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder *=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C midday yesterday		Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	Sun hr*
Aberdeen	7	R	1.8	0.0
Aberporth	9	PC	0.0	0.5
Anglesey	10	DU	0.0	0.0
Aviemore	7	C	1.4	0.0
Barnstaple	7	S	0.0	**
Bedford	7	S	0.2	**
Belfast	8	DU	0.0	0.0
Birmingham	7	PC	0.0	**
Bournemouth	10	B	0.0	0.0
Bridlington	9	PC	0.0	**
Bristol	7	DU	0.2	0.8
Camborne	9	B	0.0	0.0
Cardiff	7	PC	0.2	5.2
Edinburgh	10	D	0.2	3.0
Eskdalemuir	8	R	1.6	0.0
Glasgow	9	PC	0.2	0.1
Hereford	4	FG	0.2	**
Herstmonceux	10	S	0.4	2.7
Ipswich	7	S	0.0	0.2
Isle of Man	10	B	0.0	0.0
Isle of Wight	9	M	0.2	**
Jersey	7	S	0.0	4.6
Keswick	10	C	0.8	**
Kinloss	7	C	5.8	0.0
Leeds	7	S	0.0	**
Lerwick	7	SH	1.4	0.0
Leuchars	9	R	0.0	2.2
Lincoln	7	S	0.0	0.6
Liverpool	8	S	0.0	**
London	9	PC	0.0	2.1
Lyneham	6	DU	0.0	0.2
Manchester	8	S	0.0	1.2
Margate	10	S	0.0	1.3
Milford Haven	9	DU	0.0	**
Newcastle	9	PC	0.0	**
Nottingham	7	S	0.0	0.0
Orkney	8	PC	4.4	0.0
Oxford	9	S	0.2	**
Plymouth	10	DU	0.0	**
Portland	9	M	0.0	**
Scilly, St Mary's	10	DU	0.0	**
Shoreham	8	M	0.2	1.2
Shrewsbury	8	S	0.2	1.2
Snowdonia	7	M	0.0	**
Southend	8	S	0.2	2.5
South Uist	8	PC	4.6	**
Stornoway	7	PC	2.8	0.0
Tiree	8	C	7.4	0.0
Whitehaven	6	B	0.0	0.4
Wick	7	C	0.2	**
Yeovilton	10	M	0.0	0.1

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	16	PC	Madeira	23	S
Amsterdam	7	S	Madrid	11	S
Athens	8	R	Mallorca	16	PC
Auckland	20	B	Malaga	16	B
Bahrain	22	S	Malta	11	PC
Bangkok	32	S	Melbourne	39	S
Barbados	30	SH	Mexico City	21	B
Barcelona	13	PC	Miami	27	B
Beijing	-5	S	Milan	5	M
Beirut	15	R	Mombasa	31	B
Belgrade	-2	B	Montreal	0	PC
Berlin	6	S	Moscow	-3	PC
Bermuda	21	B	Mumbai	28	S
Bordeaux	9	S	Munich	1	S
Brussels	9	S	Nairobi	24	B
Bucharest	3	PC	Naples	9	PC
Budapest	0	S	New Orleans	25	B
Buenos Aires	34	S	New York	6	C
Cairo	16	PC	Nice	14	S
Calcutta	18	S	Nicosia	15	PC
Canberra	38	S	Oslo	5	PC
Cape Town	22	PC	Paris	6	S
Chicago	13	R	Perth	25	S
Copenhagen	7	B	Prague	2	S
Corfu	10	B	Reykjavik	2	B
Delhi	7	FG	Riga	7	DU
Dubai	24	PC	Rio de Janeiro	30	PC
Dublin	10	B	Riyadh	22	S
Faro	15	S	Rome	10	S
Florence	10	S	San Francisco	13	C
Frankfurt	2	S	Santiago	33	S
Geneva	3	PC	São Paulo	28	PC
Gibraltar	16	B	Seoul	5	R
Harare	**	**	Seychelles	31	PC
Helsinki	5	D	Singapore	31	B
Hong Kong	23	PC	St Petersburg	3	SH
Honolulu	29	PC	Stockholm	8	DU
Istanbul	10	B	Sydney	30	S
Jerusalem	19	PC	Tel Aviv	19	PC
Johannesburg	23	B	Tenerife	26	S
Kuala Lumpur	32	PC	Tokyo	7	R
Lanzarote	21	S	Vancouver	8	C
Las Palmas	23	S	Venice	5	S
Lima	21	DU	Vienna	1	S
Lisbon	14	S	Warsaw	3	S
Los Angeles	17	PC	Washington	10	R
Luxor	20	S	Zurich	0	B

Five days ahead

Showers or spells of rain in the northwest at times. Generally drier and brighter in the southeast

Tomorrow

Occasional spells of rain will affect northwestern Scotland, with isolated showers possible near southern and western coastlines, but most places will stay dry with bright spells.

Max 9C, min -1C

Thursday

A dry and bright start for many places, however a band of rain will arrive from the northwest, pushing southeastwards. Much of England and Wales will stay dry and bright all day.

Max 12C, min -1C

Friday

Outbreaks of rain will clear southeastwards, leaving bright spells and showers in the northwest, most frequent across Scotland where showers may turn wintry.

Max 10C, min -3C

Saturday

Most places staying largely dry and bright, although some longer spells of rain are possible across northern Scotland, with the chance of a few showers in the west.

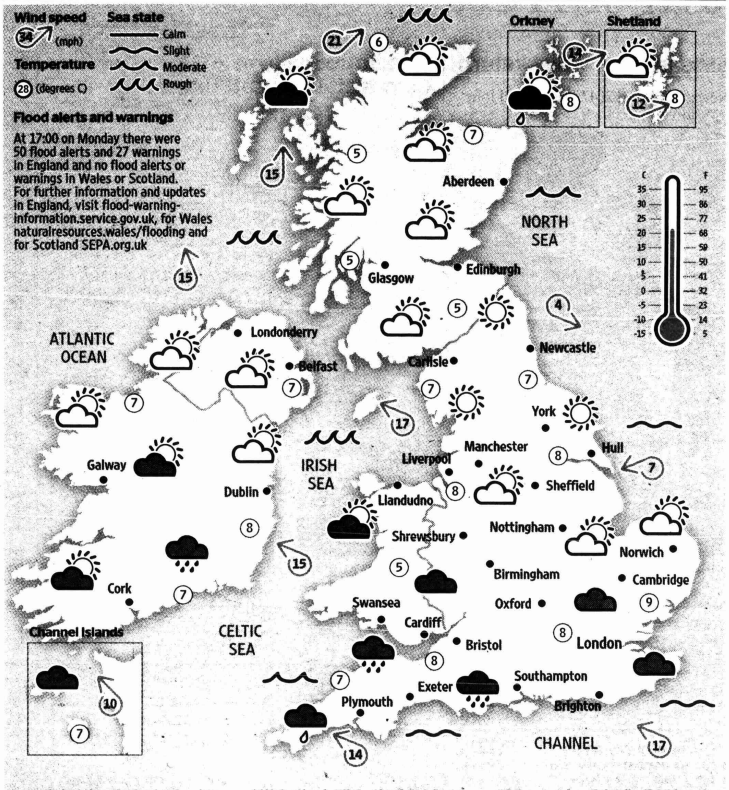
Max 8C, min -2C

Sunday

A largely dry and bright day across much of England and Wales, however Scotland and Ireland will be cloudier as a band of rain pushes into northwestern parts.

Max 8C, min 0C

The Times weather page is provided by Weatherquest



General situation: Fairly cloudy with patchy drizzle in the southwest. Largely dry and bright elsewhere. **E Eng, Cen N Eng, NW Eng, IoM, N Ireland, Lake District, NE Eng, Borders, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Cen Highland, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** A frosty start with the odd mist or fog patch. Otherwise a largely dry and bright day with occasional cloud. Fog patches may reform later. Light and variable winds. Maximum 9C (48F), minimum -3C (27F).

NW Scotland, NE Scotland, N Isles, Moray Firth: A largely dry and bright day with variable cloud and the odd shower possible. Light to moderate southwesterly winds. Maximum 8C (46F), minimum -1C (30F).

Channel Is, SW Eng, Cen S Eng, Wales: Some early mist or fog patches may be slow to clear. Otherwise a cloudy day with spells of light rain or drizzle. Light to moderate, east or southeasterly winds. Maximum 10C (50F), minimum 0C (32F).

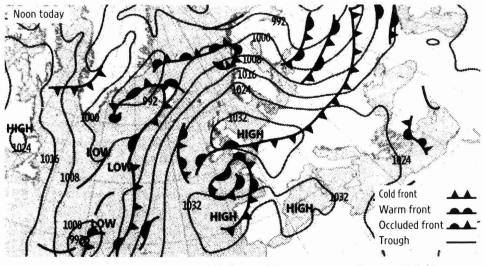
SE Eng, London, E Anglia, E Mids, W Mids: A fairly cloudy start with the odd mist or fog patch. Then turning brighter, particularly in the northeast. Drizzle possible in the southwest. Light east to northeasterly winds. Maximum 10C (50F), minimum 0C (32F).

Republic of Ireland: Cloudy with patchy rain or drizzle in the south at first. Largely dry and bright in the north, before cloud increases later. Mainly light easterly winds. Maximum 10C (50F), minimum 1C (34F).

Tides

Tidal predictions. Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	04:37	3.8	16:31	4.0
Avonmouth	10:10	11.7	22:27	11.3
Belfast	02:15	3.2	14:28	3.5
Cardiff	09:58	10.9	22:15	10.5
Devonport	08:35	5.1	20:57	4.8
Dover	01:58	6.4	14:19	6.0
Dublin	02:43	3.6	14:50	3.9
Falmouth	08:09	4.8	20:31	4.4
Greenock	03:24	3.2	15:35	3.5
Harwich	02:24	3.8	14:56	3.7
Holyhead	01:17	5.0	13:27	5.3
Hull	09:18	6.5	21:22	6.9
Leith	05:51	5.0	17:56	5.0
Liverpool	02:04	8.4	14:22	8.7
London Bridge	04:38	6.5	17:05	6.5
Lowestoft	00:09	2.5	13:04	2.2
Milford Haven	09:18	6.3	21:35	5.9
Morecambe	02:07	8.3	14:23	8.6
Newhaven	02:01	6.2	14:12	5.9
Newquay	08:11	6.5	20:29	6.1
Oban	08:41	3.7	20:47	3.4
Penzance	07:42	5.1	19:59	4.7
Portsmouth	02:36	4.4	14:35	4.3
Shoreham	02:10	5.8	14:18	5.5
Southampton	01:28	4.1	13:40	4.1
Swansea	09:25	8.5	21:41	8.1
Tees	06:54	4.8	18:51	5.0
Weymouth	09:35	1.9	21:56	1.6



Synoptic situation

An area of high pressure centred over the British Isles will bring largely dry, bright and settled conditions to much of the country. However, several weak fronts across southwestern parts will bring cloud, patchy rain or drizzle to southern Ireland, Wales and southwest England. Settled conditions will continue for most places into Wednesday.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: Okehampton, 12.3C
Coldest: Santon Downham, Norfolk, -2.3C
Wettest: Elphin, Sutherland, 19.4mm
Sunniest: North Wyke, 6.9hrs*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 08.05
Sun sets: 16.00
Moon rises: 11.18
Moon sets: 21.38
First quarter: January 03

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	16:04-08:17
Belfast	16:36-08:16
Birmingham	16:32-07:48
Cardiff	16:42-07:48
Exeter	16:47-07:46
Glasgow	16:22-08:17
Liverpool	16:31-07:57
London	16:30-07:36
Manchester	16:28-07:54
Newcastle	16:17-08:01
Norwich	16:19-07:36
Penzance	16:58-07:51
Sheffield	16:25-07:51

Weather Eye

Paul Simons

On December 1 Peter Lawrence in Thornton, Leicestershire, pointed his camera to the sky and took a photograph of something very odd — a brief flash of orangey-red light on the bottom edge of the moon. "As the crescent moon set it turned vividly orange in colour," Mr Lawrence told spaceweather.com. "Then the lower red edge of the moon appeared to detach from the main body, producing a rare lunar 'red flash'." The phenomenon was created by a distortion in the Earth's atmosphere. A layer of warm air lay over colder air and acted as a lens, bending the light from the moon. Red flashes can also happen with the setting sun, but they are difficult to see because the sun is already so red.

Another type of lunar flash was seen this year on January 20 during a total lunar eclipse. A brief and small flash was caught on camera by people filming and photographing the event. It was actually a meteoroid impact on the surface of the moon and it may have been the first time such an impact was caught during a lunar eclipse.

Other lunar flashes are more mysterious. On June 18, 1178, a group of five monks in Canterbury reported an "upheaval" on the moon shortly after sunset. While observing the upper horn of the bright, new crescent moon, the group watched as "a flaming torch sprang up, spewing out, over a considerable distance, fire, hot coals and sparks ... the moon throbbed like a wounded snake".

One idea was that a massive meteoroid struck the moon and cratered the lunar surface, but such an impact would blast debris into the Earth's atmosphere and cause a global climate catastrophe. An alternative theory about the event is that the monks witnessed a meteor hurtling through the Earth's atmosphere, bursting into flames and shattering into fiery fragments. The monks' view may have been at just the right angle to make it appear as if the meteor were coming from the moon.

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weatherquest

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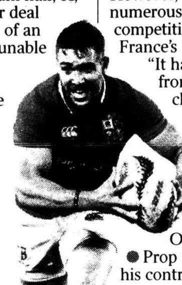
Sport

Webb to leave Toulon at end of season for Wales return

Rugby union Rhys Webb will leave the Top 14 side Toulon at the end of the season. The Wales scrum half, 31, who had signed a two-year deal in 2018 that had an option of an extra campaign, has been unable to represent his country during his spell abroad as he had won fewer than the WRU benchmark of 60 caps. He played the last of his 31 Tests against South Africa in December 2017 and missed the 2019 World Cup because of his move to France.

Webb, right, who also played two Tests for the British & Irish Lions in New Zealand in 2017, has scored four tries in 26 matches for Toulon. However, he has suffered from numerous injuries and faced stiff competition for a starting place from France's Baptiste Serin.



"It has been difficult to be far from my family and my young children," Webb said in a statement. "I am determined to give my best for the club until the end of the season."

Webb is expected to return to Wales and has been linked with a move to Ospreys or the Dragons.

● Prop Brok Harris has extended his contract with the Dragons.

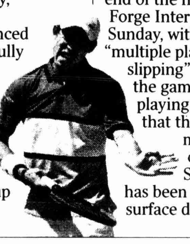
India to compete at 2022 Games after boycott U-turn

Commonwealth Games India will take part at the 2022 Games in Birmingham after reversing their decision to boycott the event over the absence of shooting as a medal sport, Games organisers and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) said yesterday. Shooting was responsible for 16 of India's 66 medals at the 2018 Gold Coast Games but the optional sport was dropped from the Birmingham programme.

The IOA's change of heart came after talks with the Commonwealth Games Federation president Louise Martin in New Delhi last month. India also said that it hoped to host either the 2026 or 2030 Games.

Nishikori out of Australian Open after elbow surgery

Tennis Kei Nishikori, the world No 13 from Japan, has followed Andy Murray in pulling out of next month's Australian Open. Murray, the two-time Wimbledon champion who is recovering from hip surgery, withdrew on Saturday and Nishikori, 30, right, announced yesterday that he has not fully recovered from elbow surgery in October. "I'm still not 100 per cent ready [or] healthy to compete at the highest level," Nishikori said. Like Murray, too, he will miss the inaugural ATP Cup team event in Australia.



'Wrong detergent' caused match to be abandoned

Basketball The British Basketball League match between Sheffield Sharks and Leicester Riders was abandoned over fears for the players' safety. Officials called a halt at the end of the first quarter at the Ponds Forge International Sports Centre on Sunday, with Leicester reporting "multiple players from both teams slipping" before "officials called the game off due to [an] unsafe playing surface". The BBC said that the "wrong detergent" might have been used to clean the court. Sheffield Sharks said: "Today's game has been postponed with the floor surface deemed unsuitable."

Warwick
Rob Wright

12.25 Galtee Mountain **2.35** Glenførde
12.55 Emmas Joy **3.10** Write It Down
1.30 Seeanythingyoulike **3.40** Wireless Operator
2.00 Flaming Charmer

Going: soft, good to soft in places — **Racing TV**

12.25 Novices' Handicap Hurdle (£3,249: 2m 3f) (16)

1 P/05 **STRICTLY ART** 38 D P Quinn 6-12-0 **A Coleman**
2 3-410 **KENNY GEORGE** 34 (D) Miss S West 4-11-13 **M Goldstein**
3 464-1 **SEE FOREVER** 21 (H,T) F O'Brien 5-11-12 **M Kendrick (3)**
4 -124P **THE DISTANT LADY** 19 (T) G McPherson 5-11-12 **Kielan Woods**
5 /6-50 **WITH PLEASURE** 59 (B) J Flint 6-11-9 **B R Jones (5)**
6 60-0P **BRIERY BUNNY** 45 (H) Mrs C Bailey 7-11-8 **J Bowen**
7 04-50 **POET'S REFLECTION** 26 Miss L Blackford 4-11-6 **D Noonan**
8 F0500 **COTTONVALE** 17 Christian Williams 8-11-5 **Jack Tudor (7)**
9 -0000 **NOTHING MAN** 18 (BF) David Dennis 5-11-4 **S Twiston-Davies**
10 004-F **DADSINLUCK** 44 (H,T) T Vaughan 6-11-3 **A Johns**
11 0-0U0 **LADY WETHERED** 33 (T) Miss L Blackford 7-10-8 **C Shoemark**
12 3000- **JUST FOR TARA** 427 Christian Williams 6-10-7 **C Ring (3)**
13 000-0 **GO AS YOU PLEASE** 227 P Webber 6-10-6 **R McLernon**
14 65006 **THE LATE LEGEND** 20 (T) T H Weston 6-10-6 **J Nixon (5)**
15 00004 **GALTEE MOUNTAIN** 21 P G Murphy 4-10-5 **J J Burke**
16 0F600 **FREEDOM CHIMES** 34 (P,T) Mrs R Gasson 5-10-0 **B Poste**

9-4 See Forever, 5-1 Dadsinluck, 8-1 Nothing Man, 10-1 Strictly Art, Just For Tara, 12-1 Kenny George, The Distant Lady, 14-1 others.

Rob Wright's choice: Galtee Mountain has shaped well on his past two runs **Dangers:** See Forever, Go As You Please

12.55 Mares' 'National Hunt' Novices' Hurdle (£4,549: 2m 5f) (12)

1 0-315 **EMMAS JOY** 25 (C) D Skelton 6-11-5 **H Skelton**
2 45-0P **AGENT VALDEZ** 19 F O'Brien 6-10-12 **C Brace (3)**
3 0625 **ALWAYS ABLE** 14 Mrs F Kehoe 4-10-12 **T J O'Brien**
4 P/1 **ARANS CHOICE** 66 (T) R Teal 6-10-12 **H Teal (5)**
5 1-503 **CILL ANNA** 26 (T) P Nicholls 4-10-12 **H Cobden**
6 1-3 **GRANNY'S SECRET** 228 B Pauling 5-10-12 **N De Boinville**
7 3 **MISAPS** 19 Stuart Edmunds 5-10-12 **C Gethings**
8 31406 **NOTAWORDOFALIE** 12 Jonjo O'Neill 4-10-12 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr**
9 F1-12 **ROSE OF AGHABOE** 28 N Gifford 6-10-12 **J M Davies**
10 6-336 **TARA NIECE** 53 Emma Lavelle 6-10-12 **B R Jones (5)**
11 4-530 **THEQUEENBEE** 26 S-J Davies 4-10-12 **C Hammond (3)**
12 P1-40 **THOOR CASTLE** 41 Emma Lavelle 6-10-12 **A Coleman**

9-4 Emmas Joy, 3-1 Cill Anna, 11-2 Granny's Secret, 8-1 Rose Of Aghaboe, Arans Choice, 10-1 Misaps, 16-1 Thoor Castle, Tara Niece, 20-1 others.

Wright choice: Emmas Joy drops in class after struggling in a grade two at Sandown **Dangers:** Cill Anna, Granny's Secret

1.30 Handicap Chase (£3,899: 2m) (11)

1 1-034 **COMBER MILL** 21 (T) A Ralph 7-11-12 **L Treadwell**
2 51340 **JOLY MAKER** 26 (D) Jonjo O'Neill 5-11-9 **R McLernon**
3 35-P0 **BY RAIL** F91 (B,D) N Littmoden 5-11-7 **J Quinlan**
4 P-11P **BATTLEOFTHESOMME** 35 (P,BF,D) J Snowden 6-11-7 **Page Fuller (3)**
5 106-P **VERY LIVE** 235 (B,D) F O'Brien 10-11-6 **C Brace (3)**
6 1P4-P **LIGHTENTERTAINMENT** 31 (B,CD) F Brennan 11-11-3 **B J Powell**
7 023F4 **SEEANYTHINGYOULIKE** 33 (H) J Scott 8-11-1 **M Griffiths**
8 -PPP6 **DUN BAY CREEK** 89 (P) R Brotherton 8-10-8 **D Noonan**
9 00522 **AGENTLEMAN** 26 P Winks 9-10-7 **K Yeoman (7)**
10 3-456 **HUME LOUGH** 18 (P) S-J Davies 8-10-2 **C Hammond (3)**
11 54041 **ST MERRYN** 73 B Summers 8-10-0 **Jamie Moore**

7-2 Agentleman, 9-2 Battleofthesomme, 5-1 Seeanythingyoulike, 6-1 St Merryn, Comber Mill, 10-1 Joly Maker, 12-1 Very Live, 14-1 others.

Wright choice: Seeanythingyoulike was unlucky when fourth at Taunton **Dangers:** Comber Mill, Agentleman

2.00 Conditional Jockeys' Veterans' Handicap Chase (£6,498: 3m) (8)

1 PP-12 **BOB FORD** 18 (D) A Ralph 12-12-3 **H Teal**
2 -0644 **UHLAN BUTE** 28 (P,D) Miss V Williams 11-11-12 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr**
3 5-044 **LOOSE CHIPS** 25 (B,D) C Longsdon 13-11-10 **T Buckley (6)**
4 /2-P5 **ULTIMATUM DU ROY** 34 (P,T,D) A Hales 11-11-5 **J Nailor (3)**
5 22-32 **TROUBLED SOUL** 42 F O'Brien 10-11-4 **C Brace (3)**
6 P-P30 **FLAMING CHARMER** 26 (W,P,T) S Flook 11-10-11 **B R Jones**
7 -0302 **WATER WAGTAIL** 49 (V,C) Emma Lavelle 12-10-11 **Henry Platt (10)**
8 05321 **HIGH COUNSEL** 16 (P) G Hanmer 10-10-0 **A Thorne (3)**

3-1 Bob Ford, 7-2 Troubled Soul, 4-1 High Counsel, 9-2 Water Wagtail, 6-1 Uhlan Bute, 8-1 Loose Chips, 25-1 Ultimatum Du Roy, 33-1 Flaming Charmer.

Wright choice: Flaming Charmer, who has had a breathing operation, is well-in **Dangers:** Water Wagtail, Bob Ford

2.35 Handicap Hurdle (£4,549: 3m 2f) (16)

1 00/46 **DADSINTROUBLE** 40 T Vaughan 9-11-13 **A Johns**
2 1P/5- **TAMBURA** 296 N King 9-11-12 **Mr Z Baker (5)**
3 11146 **TEA TIME FRED** 37 (P,D) Mrs S Gardner 10-11-12 **Jack Tudor (7)**
4 1-445 **UNO MAS** 188 (CD) Christian Williams 5-11-8 **M Bastyan (5)**
5 /21-P **CROWN HILL** 56 (CD) J Farrelly 9-11-7 **B J Powell**
6 11240 **SANDY BOY** 36 (B) P Hobbs 5-11-6 **T J O'Brien**
7 42-01 **PEMBERLEY** 34 Emma Lavelle 6-11-5 **B R Jones (5)**
8 143P2 **THE WICKET CHICKEN** 29 (B) N Mulholland 7-11-5 **Miss M Wonnacott (7)**
9 6P-44 **AMATEUR** 25 (P,T) J Flint 6-11-1 **C Brace (3)**
10 013-0 **AVANTGARDIST** 53 (C) Henry Oliver 5-11-1 **J M Davies**
11 4P/4B **GLENFORDE** 35 (H) D Skelton 8-11-0 **H Skelton**
12 0U-5F **JULLY LES BUXY** 17 (B,T) K Burke 9-10-13 **T Bellamy**
13 -PF02 **COLBY** 25 (T) P Bowen 6-10-11 **J Bowen**
14 3P403 **HIS DREAM** 36 (B,CD) Jonjo O'Neill 6-10-10 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr**
15 1-061 **URTHEONETHATIWANT** 36 J Scott 6-10-7 **B Carver (7)**
16 132/6 **FIZZLESTIX** 43 (D) C Gordon 7-10-6 **Jamie Moore**

5-1 Pemberley, 6-1 Glenforde, 7-1 Urtheonethatiwant, The Wicket Chicken, 8-1 Colby, 10-1 Sandy Boy, 12-1 Amateur, Dadsintrouble, 14-1 others.

Wright choice: Glenforde was going well when brought down at Southwell **Dangers:** Pemberley, The Wicket Chicken

3.10 Handicap Chase (£5,198: 2m 4f) (13)

1 05-06 **SUPER SNIPE** 49 (T) R G Hawker 8-12-0 **D Noonan**
2 1-U63 **MANOFTHEMOMENT** 24 T R George 5-11-12 **J J Burke**
3 P-UF6 **SUMMIT LIKE HERBIE** 24 N Twiston-Davies 7-11-7 **S Twiston-Davies**
4 54-32 **GLOBAL RULER** 26 (B,T) D Skelton 7-11-6 **H Skelton**
5 33105 **GAME LINE** 15 Christian Williams 5-11-5 **Jack Tudor (7)**
6 560-P **VOILA ERIC** 66 (B) M Scudamore 7-11-4 **B J Powell**
7 3-UP2 **TOP DECISION** 16 (T) S Drinkwater 6-11-4 **Robert Dunne**
8 /F0P4 **PULP FICTION** 34 (H,T) B Case 7-11-4 **C Gethings**
9 65123 **WRITE IT DOWN** 33 (P,T,BF,CD) Jonjo O'Neill 5-11-3 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr**
10 P-1PP **AGAINN DUL AGHAIDH** 164 (T) J Groucott 8-11-1 **Kielan Woods**
11 6-P15 **ARQUEBUSIER** 33 (T,V,CD) Mrs E Bishop 9-11-1 **J Bargary**
12 5P-62 **REDMOND** 33 (T) Noel Williams 9-10-13 **L Aspell**
13 64646 **SPOCK** 51 (D) Lady S Brooke 14-10-0 **Miss L Brooke (7)**

4-1 Global Ruler, 6-1 Manofthemoment, Redmond, 13-2 Write It Down, 8-1 Top Decision, 10-1 Game Line, 12-1 Arquebusier, 14-1 others.

Wright choice: Write It Down was a good third in a stronger race at Taunton **Dangers:** Manofthemoment, Redmond

3.40 NH Flat Race (£2,599: 2m) (18)

1 **ALLENBY** P Hobbs 4-11-0 **T J O'Brien**
2 5 **COUNTERACT** 29 Miss S Smith 4-11-0 **R McLernon**
3 **CRONK Y KNOX** W Greatrex 4-11-0 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr**
4 64-60 **DEE LANE** 1 (W) G Hanmer 6-11-0 **A Thorne (7)**
5 **EYEOFTHESCORPION** G McPherson 5-11-0 **Kielan Woods**
6 P-2 **FELTON BELLEVUE** 218 B Case 4-11-0 **J J Burke**
7 P **FUNWAY MONARCH** 25 N King 4-11-0 **Bryony Frost**
8 **HURRICANE MITCH** H Fry 4-11-0 **S Bowen**
9 4 **JOINT ACCOUNT** 153 D Frankland 6-11-0 **C Brace (3)**
10 0 **LIGHTONTHEWING** 25 Mrs S Gardner 4-11-0 **Jack Tudor (7)**
11 3 **MINT CONDITION** 89 Jennie Candlish 5-11-0 **J Bargary**
12 4/3- **PRESENTEDWITHWINGS** 597 T Symonds 5-11-0 **B Poste**
13 **ROBELLI** I Williams 4-11-0 **T Scudamore**
14 **SCARPIA** N Henderson 5-11-0 **N De Boinville**
15 **TIP TOP CAT** N Twiston-Davies 4-11-0 **S Twiston-Davies**
16 0 **WHAT A BALOO** 35 (P) K Bailey 4-11-0 **Chester Williams (5)**
17 2 **WILDE ABOUT OSCAR** 35 D Skelton 4-11-0 **H Skelton**
18 **WIRELESS OPERATOR** B Pauling 4-11-0 **A P Heskin**

4-1 Wilde About Oscar, 5-1 Scarpia, 7-1 Allenby, Cronk Y Knox, 8-1 others.

Wright choice: Wireless Operator is a half-brother to two bumper winners **Dangers:** Wilde About Oscar, Mint Condition

Lingfield Park
Rob Wright

12.00 Man Of The Sea **2.10** Dashing Roger
12.35 Today Power (nb) **2.45** Concierge
1.05 Another Touch **3.20** Royal Dynasty
1.40 Bo Samraan

Going: standard — **Sky Sports Racing**
Draw: no advantage

12.00 Handicap (£2,782: 5f) (10)

1 (3) 11161 **MAN OF THE SEA** 127 (P,T,D) N Mulholland 3-9-7 **B Curtis**
2 (2) 50023 **ROUNDABOUT MAGIC** 10 (BF,CD) S Dow 5-9-5 **Hollie Doyle**
3 (10) 00000 **SUPERSEDED** 21 (D) J Butler 3-9-4 **L Morris**
4 (9) 51034 **TERRI RULES** 10 (D) L Carter 4-9-3 **D Muscutt**
5 (5) 30060 **FAREEQ** 10 (B,T,CD) C Wallis 5-9-2 **R Kingscote**
6 (6) 34260 **OH SO NICE** 29 A Carroll 3-8-13 **T Marquand**
7 (4) 50500 **STARCHANT** 10 (B) J Bridger 3-8-7 **K O'Neill**
8 (8) 50460 **ASK THE GURU** 89 (B,CD) M Attwater 9-8-7 **N Currie**
9 (7) 65566 **PHAROH JAKE** 10 (CD) J Bridger 11-8-7 **George Rooke (7)**
10 (1) 60600 **WANEEN** 89 (CD) J Butler 6-8-7 **J Haynes**

11-4 Roundabout Magic, 4-1 Man Of The Sea, 6-1 Terri Rules, 7-1 Oh So Nice, Fareeq, 8-1 Superseded, 12-1 Starchant, 16-1 others.

12.35 Nursery (2-Y-O: £3,429: 1m) (7)

1 (5) 0421 **ISLAND HIDEAWAY** 22 (CD) D Lanigan 9-7 **S W Kelly**
2 (6) 41161 **SPEED MERCHANT** 12 (P) M Appleby 9-5 **A Rawlinson**
3 (3) 06403 **SECRET SMILE** 19 M Johnston 9-3 **J Hart**
4 (4) 005 **ST JUST** 26 W Haggas 8-13 **T Marquand**
5 (7) 000 **QUEEN OF SILCA** 89 M Channon 8-8 **N Currie**
6 (1) 0062 **TODAY POWER** 110 (BF) R Hannon 8-7 **Hollie Doyle**
7 (2) 020 **SARACEN STAR** 27 J S Moore 8-4 **L Morris**

11-4 Speed Merchant, 3-1 Island Hideaway, 9-2 Today Power, 5-1 others.

1.05 Handicap (£11,972: 1m) (7)

1 (6) 21225 **KUWAIT CURRENCY** 27 (T,D) R Hannon 3-9-9 **R Kingscote**
2 (4) 15030 **GORING** 27 (V,CD) Eve J-Houghton 7-9-6 **C Bishop**
3 (5) -4501 **ANOTHER TOUCH** 33 (D) R Fahey 6-9-2 **B McHugh**
4 (1) 00500 **SANAADH** 81 (T) M Wigham 6-8-10 **B Curtis**
5 (2) 10353 **MR SCARAMANGA** 33 (CD) S Dow 5-8-8 **L Morris**
6 (3) 35445 **MICHELE STROGOFF** 13 (D) M Appleby 6-8-5 **T Ladd (3)**
7 (7) 00050 **APEX KING** 27 (CD) M Usher 5-8-5 **Hollie Doyle**

7-4 Kuwait Currency, 7-2 Another Touch, 5-1 Sanaadh, 6-1 others.

1.40 Handicap (£7,246: 1m 4f) (7)

1 (7) 04160 **ORIGINAL CHOICE** 43 (P,D) N Littmoden 5-9-10 **Hollie Doyle**
2 (6) 1/141 **ENTANGLING** 10 (CD) D Elsworth 5-9-8 **W Carson**
3 (4) 16026 **FURZIG** 27 (C) R Fahey 4-9-7 **Connor Murtagh (3)**
4 (5) 11210 **BO SAMRAAN** 18 (D) M Johnston 3-9-4 **J Hart**
5 (3) 25101 **JUST THE MAN** 22 (C) C Cox 3-9-4 **A Kirby**
6 (2) 00402 **EXCEEDING POWER** 34 (CD) M Bosley 8-9-2 **T Marquand**
7 (1) 1304 **THEMATIC** 122 D F Davis 3-8-12 **L Keniry**

2-1 Entangling, 11-4 Just The Man, 4-1 Furzig, 8-1 others.

2.10 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £2,782: 7f) (14)

1 (14) **AJAX TAVERN** R Hannon 9-5 **T Marquand**
2 (6) 5 **ALBORKAN** 20 Miss Amy Murphy 9-5 **L Edmunds**
3 (5) 20 **DASHING ROGER** 10 W Stone 9-5 **R Kingscote**
4 (10) 6 **GOLDEN FOUNTAIN** 26 M Johnston 9-5 **A Breslin (5)**
5 (8) 0 **GOOD TIME CHARLIE** 70 C Cox 9-5 **A Kirby**
6 (3) 60 **INDIGO TIMES** 20 D M Simcock 9-5 **D E Hogan (5)**
7 (11) 00 **VARIOUS** 61 Eve J-Houghton 9-5 **C Bishop**
8 (1) 06 **ARIETTA** 26 J Portman 9-0 **R Hornby**
9 (12) 0 **BROWN EYED GIRL** 41 M Channon 9-0 **K O'Neill**
10 (9) 23 **BUY ME BACK** 13 (P) Archie Watson 9-0 **Doubtful**
11 (2) **COCONUT SUGAR** R Cowell 9-0 **L Morris**
12 (13) 0 **KALIMOTXO** 22 W Knight 9-0 **C Shepherd**
13 (4) 4 **NEW ARRIVAL** 41 J Tate 9-0 **J Hart**
14 (7) **SEPIA BELLE** Miss Amy Murphy 9-0 **G Malune (3)**

7-2 New Arrival, 9-2 Ajax Tavern, 11-2 Alborkan, 8-1 others.

Blinkered first time: Lingfield Park 3.20 Bahamian Heights. **Warwick** 1.30 By Rail, Lightentertainment. 3.10 Voila Eric.

2.45 Handicap (£5,208: 7f) (11)

1 (2) 60600 **ELJADDAAF** 83 (CD) D Ivory 8-9-9 **Sophie Ralston (5)**
2 (3) 21132 **MOHAREB** 13 (BF,C) M Appleby 3-9-8 **A Rawlinson**
3 (11) 03252 **ULTIMATE AVENUE** 167 (H,D) D M Simcock 5-9-7 **D E Hogan (5)**
4 (9) 30350 **CONCIERGE** 64 David Loughnane 3-9-7 **B Curtis**
5 (10) 10324 **CORAZON ESPINADO** 33 (D) S Dow 4-9-6 **T Marquand**
6 (4) 06051 **JACKSTAR** 17 (D) T Dascombe 3-9-5 **R Kingscote**
7 (8) 14051 **TIPPERARY JACK** 55 (D) J Best 3-9-5 **A Kirby**
8 (7) 5-130 **KODIAC PRIDE** 21 (D) Sir M Prescott 3-9-2 **L Morris**
9 (5) 54420 **MARTINEO** 19 (BF,D) J Butler 4-9-1 **J Haynes**
10 (6) 13331 **LUIS VAZ DE TORRES** 31 (C,D) R Fahey 7-8-10 **Connor Murtagh (3)**
11 (1) 64151 **CHAMPION BROGIE** 26 (D) J S Moore 3-8-7 **Hollie Doyle**

11-4 Jackstar, 7-2 Mohareb, 5-1 Tipperary Jack, 8-1 others.

3.20 Handicap (£2,782: 6f) (12)

1 (12) 0-620 **ROYAL DYNASTY** 32 Mohamed Moubarak 3-9-7 **T Marquand**
2 (5) 04011 **KNOCKOUT BLOW** 13 (P,CD) J Long 4-9-7 **H Crouch**
3 (10) 000R- **BAHAMIAN HEIGHTS** 467 (V,D) Emma Owen 8-9-7 **Jonathan Fisher (7)**
4 (7) 20626 **CATHEADANS FURY** 13 (T,D) M Bosley 5-9-6 **A Kirby**
5 (8) 00013 **KATH'S LUSTRE** 22 (B,CD) R Hughes 4-9-6 **Doubtful**
6 (6) 520-3 **LITTLE MISS LILLY** 13 (V) C Cox 4-9-4 **Amelia Glass (7)**
7 (11) 30500 **PERFECT SYMPHONY** 13 (P,D) Mark Pattinson 5-9-4 **L Morris**
8 (9) 01644 **FALCAO** 34 (D) J Butler 7-9-3 **J Haynes**
9 (4) 40010 **MERCERS** 13 (V,C,D) P Butler 5-9-2 **Grace McEntee (7)**
10 (1) 13000 **TAWAAFOQ** 17 (H,CD) A Wintle 5-9-1 **F Marsh (3)**
11 (2) 20020 **PORTO FERRO** 13 (T,CD) J Bridger 5-9-0 **K O'Neill**
12 (3) 0000- **MAJOR ASSAULT** 453 (CD) Debbie Hughes 6-8-9 **W Carson**

4-1 Knockout Blow, 9-2 Little Miss Lilly, 5-1 Catheadans Fury, 7-1 others.

Uttoxeter
Rob Wright

12.15 Alltimegold **1.50** Star Of Rory
12.45 Golden Sovereign **2.25** Evidence De Thaix
1.20 Gatacre Street (nap) **3.00** Oscar Maguire
3.30 Forthegreatergood

Going: heavy — **Sky Sports Racing**

12.15 Handicap Hurdle (£2,794: 2m) (14)

1 40434 **HIGHLAND BOBBY** 42 (D) Olly Murphy 4-12-0 **Mr J King (5)**
2 12133 **ALLTIMEGOLD** 25 (P,T,D) T Vaughan 6-12-0 **Charlie Price (5)**
3 000-U **ANYWAYYOULOOKATIT** 217 Jonjo O'Neill 6-11-12 **W T Kennedy**
4 C2U04 **COLLODI** 14 (D) C Dore 10-11-10 **H Reed (3)**
5 25505 **ULYSSES** 26 D Shaw 5-11-6 **D Crosse**
6 5-034 **TED BACH** 28 P Henderson 8-11-4 **P Brennan**
7 P32-6 **TENNEWROW** 21 (T) A Ralph 7-11-1 **R Johnson**
8 05210 **ALL GOOD THINGS** 25 (B,T,BF,D) M Sheppard 7-10-13 **S Sheppard (3)**
9 23512 **FLANAGANS FIELD** 18 (B,D) B J Llewellyn 11-10-10 **C Todd (7)**
10 /50-1 **RICHARDOFDOCCOMBE** 45 (T,CD) Miss G Haywood 13-10-10 **R Dingle (3)**
11 04-00 **MAN OF THE NORTH** 23 A Carroll 6-10-9 **L Edwards**
12 -00P5 **DUBAI OUTLAW** 34 (T) D J Jeffreys 6-10-2 **J Bargary**
13 RP0-0 **JUST SPOT** 25 K Bishop 12-10-0 **William Marshall (7)**
14 20035 **KILCARAGH BOY** 11 (T,D) R Armson 10-10-0 **Mr P Armson (7)**

4-1 Richardofdoccombe, 9-2 Flanagans Field, 6-1 Tennewrow, 13-2 Alltimegold, 15-2 All Good Things, 8-1 Highland Bobby, 10-1 others.

Course specialists

Lingfield Park: Trainers W Haggas, 62 from 203 runners, 30.5%; N Littmoden, 13 from 53, 24.5%. **Jockey** J Hart, 8 from 32 rides, 25.0%.

Uttoxeter: Trainers D Skelton, 73 from 250, 29.2%; A Ralph, 9 from 34, 26.5%. **Jockeys** C Price, 4 from 8, 50.0%; A Coleman, 38 from 190, 20.0%.

Warwick: Trainers N Henderson, 30 from 98, 30.6%; D Skelton, 54 from 224, 24.1%. **Jockeys** H Skelton, 51 from 194, 26.3%; N De Boinville, 19 from 77, 24.7%.

12.45 Maiden Hurdle (£3,769: 2m 7f) (11)

1 -1044 **A BOOK OF INTRIGUE** 12 (H,T) J G O'Shea 6-11-0 **E Austin (7)**
2 3-323 **ACCORDINGTOGINO** 24 D Skelton 6-11-0 **Bridget Andrews**
3 32- **APPLE ROCK** 401 B Pauling 5-11-0 **D Bass**
4 12- **BONANZA SAM** 248 (BF) Mrs J Mason 6-11-0 **T Garner**
5 P1-00 **GETAMAN** 23 D J Jeffreys 6-11-0 **T Bellamy**
6 54-20 **GOLDEN SOVEREIGN** 41 P Hobbs 5-11-0 **R Johnson**
7 1 **LIES ABOUT MILAN** 58 F O'Brien 8-11-0 **Mr S J P Bargary (7)**
8 P5053 **LITTLE SAINT** 16 (T) Sean Conway 4-11-0 **A Anderson (7)**
9 6-66 **ROBSAM** 26 M Keighley 4-11-0 **P Cowley (5)**
10 0 **APRIL RISING** 26 S A Harris 4-10-7 **Ross Chapman**
11 66P- **MY FOXY LADY** 254 J Needham 7-10-7 **R Patrick (3)**

5-2 Accordingtogino, 10-3 Golden Sovereign, 4-1 Apple Rock, 9-2 Lies About Milan, 8-1 Bonanza Sam, 16-1 Little Saint, 20-1 others.

1.20 Handicap Chase (£4,289: 3m) (9)

1 F6-52 **THE OGLE GOGLE MAN** 27 (P,T,CD) C Mann 7-12-1 **H Bannister**
2 -4662 **ON THE ROAD** 13 (P) E Williams 9-12-1 **Isabel Williams (7)**
3 -0541 **SEASTON SPIRIT** 28 (B,D) O Sherwood 6-12-1 **L Aspell**
4 -414P **BIG MEADOW** 43 (BF,CD) N King 8-11-12 **Bryony Frost**
5 634P3 **CRUISING BYE** 15 (P,T,D) P Bowen 13-10-13 **S Bowen**
6 0P-13 **GATACRE STREET** 37 (BF) Sam England 7-10-12 **J England**
7 -0663 **ROLLERBALL ROCCO** 16 (CD) C Pogson 7-10-5 **A Wedge**
8 -004P **BRANDY PAD** 24 (P) Jennie Candlish 5-10-2 **S Quinlan**
9 0P-0P **GO HARD OR GO HOME** 95 (W) D J Jeffreys 6-10-0 **J Bargary**

5-2 Seaston Spirit, 10-3 Gatacre Street, 4-1 The Ogle Gogle Man, 5-1 On The Road, 10-1 Big Meadow, Cruising Bye, 16-1 Rollerball Rocco, 20-1 others.

1.50 Handicap Hurdle (£5,913: 2m 4f) (9)

1 P/F-0 **ANY DRAMA** 54 (P) H Fry 8-11-12 **S Bowen**
2 -0124 **INFORMATEUR** 1 (CD) Mrs S Smith 6-11-10 **D Cook**
3 5-60P **TEMPLEHILLS** 39 (W,H,T,CD) Jonjo O'Neill 8-11-7 **E Austin (7)**
4 F6-PP **CAVE TOP** 31 (P,CD) Oliver Greenall 7-11-5 **Mr Ed Glassonbury (7)**
5 S1-23 **KEEP WONDERING** 27 (T,BF) P Hobbs 5-11-3 **D Crosse**
6 42-P2 **ALIANDY** 41 (D) K Bailey 8-11-3 **D Bass**
7 41-01 **STAR OF RORY** 26 (T,D) J Groucott 5-10-11 **L Edwards**
8 42-0F **NO REMATCH** 35 E Williams 5-10-9 **A Wedge**
9 32500 **STICKY SITUATION** 25 T Vaughan 8-10-9 **Charlie Price (5)**

7-4 Informateur, 4-1 Keep Wondering, 6-1 Aliandy, 13-2 Star Of Rory, 7-1 No Rematch, 8-1 Any Drama, 20-1 Templehills, Cave Top, 25-1 Sticky Situation.

2.25 Novices' Limited Handicap Chase (£7,018: 2m 4f) (6)

1 00-3P **SHANNON BRIDGE** 24 (W,P,T) D Skelton 6-11-8 **Bridget Andrews**
2 1P0-1 **EVIDENCE DE THAIX** 41 (D) P Hobbs 5-11-7 **R Johnson**
3 255-F **DIAMOND FORT** 24 F O'Brien 7-11-5 **P Brennan**
4 111P/ **ROSMUC RELAY** 647 (BF) K Bailey 7-11-5 **D Bass**
5 -5U14 **NEVER EQUALLED** 26 (B) B J Llewellyn 10-10-8 **Charlie Price (5)**
6 6U-12 **STORM WIZARD** 11 (BF,D) Miss V Williams 7-10-4 **C Deutsch**

5-2 Evidence De Thaix, 3-1 Storm Wizard, 7-2 Diamond Fort, 5-1 others.

3.00 Handicap Hurdle (£2,794: 2m 7f) (7)

1 33P63 **AENGUS** 20 (P) Jennie Candlish 9-12-0 **S Quinlan**
2 00-31 **OSCAR MAGUIRE** 175 (CD) Olly Murphy 6-11-12 **R Johnson**
3 3/0-3 **MR WASHINGTON** 19 (T) David Dennis 6-11-10 **A Coleman**
4 -3050 **FLUTISTE** 24 (P,T) Ella Pickard 4-11-7 **N Scholfield**
5 60-42 **JIMMY BELL** 19 (P) J G O'Shea 8-11-4 **E Austin (7)**
6 0/0P2 **ANIKNAM** 20 P Kirby 9-10-4 **T Dowson**
7 0256P **SIMPLY LUCKY** 26 (P,T,CD) M Sowersby 10-10-3 **D McMenamin (5)**

11-8 Oscar Maguire, 4-1 Jimmy Bell, 5-1 Mr Washington, 11-2 others.

3.30 Mares' NH Flat Race (£2,274: 2m) (8)

1 **ANYTHINGFORLOVE** J Snowden 4-11-2 **Page Fuller (3)**
2 **BLUE HAWAII** Tjade Collier 4-11-2 **D Cook**
3 3 **BOURBON BEAUTY** 35 A Hales 4-11-2 **H Bannister**
4 **ELEANOR GROVE** W Greatrex 4-11-2 **R Johnson**
5 221- **FORTHEGREATERGOOD** 282 F O'Brien 5-11-2 **P Brennan**
6 P-3 **ISTHEBAROPEN** 18 G Hanmer 6-11-2 **C Leonard (7)**
7 **LA REINE POUTINE** Sam Thomas 4-11-2 **A Coleman**
8 2-0 **PONIENTE** 39 (H) Miss V Williams 5-11-2 **C Deutsch**

7-4 Forthegreatergood, 3-1 Bourbon Beauty, 4-1 Eleanor Grove, 6-1 others.

Yesterday's racing results

Haydock Park

Going: soft

12.25 (3m 58yd hdle) 1, **Buster Edwards** (Jack Tudor, 7-2 fav); 2, Strike West (25-1); 3, Donnie Brasco (5-1). 11 ran. Hd, 1l. D Pipe.

12.55 (2m 3f ch) 1, **Cloudy Glen** (Charlie Deutsch, 5-6 fav); 2, Secret Reprieve (Evens). 2 ran. 9l. Miss V Williams.

1.30 (1m 7f hdle) 1, **Ebony Jewel** (Lucy Alexander, 11-10 fav); 2, First Lord De Cuet (13-8); 3, The Newest One (13-2). 7 ran. NR: Frimeur De Lancray. ¾l, 2¾l. N Alexander.

2.00 (3m 4f 97yd ch) 1, **Lord Du Mesnil** (Paul O'Brien, 11-4 fav); 2, Perfect Candidate (4-1); 3, Classic Ben (3-1). 6 ran. 9l, 2¼l. Richard Hobson.

2.35 (2m 2f 191yd hdle) 1, **Flinck** (T J O'Brien, 5-1); 2, The Con Man (9-4 fav); 3, Zig Zag (33-1). 11 ran. 3l, 6l. P Hobbs.

3.10 (2m 5f 127yd ch) 1, **Ravenhill Road** (Danny Cook, 5-2 jt-fav); 2, Gold Opera (7-1); 3, Charmix (13-2). 8 ran. 2l, 3¼l. Mrs S J Smith.

3.40 (1m 7f 144yd flat) 1, **Ask A Honey Bee** (Mr Liam Harrison, 7-2); 2, Kiriglote (10-1); 3, Foster'sisland (50-1). 10 ran. 11l, 9l. F O'Brien.

Placepot: £22.30.
Quadpot: £7.40.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

12.05 (1m 1yd) 1, **Agent Of Fortune** (Hector Crouch, 3-1 fav); 2, Weloof (5-1); 3, Bullington Boy (7-1). 10 ran. NR: French Twist, Gerry The Glover. 2l, 2l. G L Moore.

12.35 (1m 1yd) 1, **Almufti** (Jack Mitchell, 7-2 fav); 2, Delicate Kiss (9-1); 3, Candelisa (16-1). 10 ran. 1¼l, ns. H Palmer.

1.05 (7f 1yd) 1, **Prince Rock** (L Morris, 7-2 fav); 2, Roca Magica (20-1); 3, Disruptor (13-2). 12 ran. NR: Maqboola, Ramblow. ½l, ¾l. S Dow.

1.40 (6f 1yd) 1, **Lady Dancealot** (Hayley Turner, 5-1); 2, Prince Of Rome (7-1); 3, Merhoob (4-1 fav). 10 ran. NR: Second Collection, Total Commitment. Hd, 1½l. D Elsworth.

2.10 (6f 1yd) 1, **Little Brown Trout** (Hollie Doyle, 6-1); 2, Kondratiev Wave (7-1); 3, Dazzling Des (14-1). 8 ran. ½l, 1l. W Stone.

2.45 (1m 2f) 1, **Exmoor Beast** (P Mulrennan, 13-8 fav); 2, Thai Terrier (7-2); 3, Lep (14-1). 8 ran. Sh hd, 5l. P Charalambous.

3.20 (1m 2f) 1, **Bond Angel** (C Lee, 25-1); 2, Cheeky Rascal (7-1); 3, Enzo (11-1). 13 ran. NR: Shelter. Hd, hd. P D Evans.

Placepot: £283.00.
Quadpot: £51.20.

Taunton

Going: soft

12.45 (2m 104yd hdle) 1, **Blacko** (Thomas Bellamy, 4-1); 2, Zoffee (8-11 fav); 3, The Pink'n (10-1). 12 ran. 2¼l, 11l. A King.

1.15 (2m 3f 1yd hdle) 1, **Republican** (L P Aspell, 12-1); 2, Flic Ou Voyou (4-7 fav); 3, Fitzroy (16-1). 14 ran. Hd, 1¼l. O Sherwood.

1.50 (2m 7f 3yd ch) 1, **Manofthemountain** (Ben Jones, 5-2 fav); 2, Putdecashonthedash (8-1); 3, Sizing Cusimano (9-2). 10 ran. 7l, ¾l. Miss E Lavelle.

2.25 (2m 104yd hdle) 1, **Marie's Rock** (Nico de Boinville, 6-4 jt-fav); 2, Midnights' Gift (7-1); 3, It's Probably Me (33-1). 6 ran. NR: Silver Forever. 8l, 3l. N Henderson.

2.55 (3m 2f 57yd ch) 1, **Great Tempo** (Mr Fergus Gillard, 8-1); 2, The Boola Bee (12-1); 3, Kilcrea Bridge (5-1 fav). 15 ran. NR: Cap Horner. Hd, 2½l. D Pipe.

3.30 (2m 7f 198yd hdle) 1, **Kansas City Chief** (R T Dunne, 12-1); 2, Normandy Soldier (9-4 fav); 3, Winter Getaway (5-2). 8 ran. 1l, 2¾l. N Mulholland.

4.00 (2m 3f 1yd hdle) 1, **Lightly Squeeze** (Bryan Carver, Evens fav); 2, Twenty Twenty (4-1); 3, Starsky (9-2).; 4, Candyman Can (66-1). 16 ran. NR: Miss Gemstone. 7l, 1¼l. H Fry.

Placepot: £9.70. **Quadpot: £10.10.**

Sport

A vintage year of sport that

Matthew Syed

Sporting 2019 reviewed

It is difficult to pick out a particular moment. One might be drawn to the mighty stroke by Ben Stokes that sealed victory in the third Test at Headingley to keep the Ashes alive or the pick-up-and-throw by Jason Roy to Jos Buttler that won the World Cup.

One might select the goal by Lucas Moura that completed the most stirring comeback for Tottenham Hotspur against Ajax in the second leg of the Champions League semi-final or the quick corner by a sharp-eyed Trent Alexander-Arnold into the path of Divock Origi for a goal that sealed an even more improbable triumph for Liverpool against Barcelona the evening before.

One might alight on the forehand by Novak Djokovic to save the second of two championship points against Roger Federer, the Serb showing mettle beyond adequate description in one of the most pulsating of Wimbledon finals, or the Women's Football World Cup, a competition that subverted an entire spectrum of tired stereotypes.

One might pick the moment when Lewis Hamilton clinched his sixth world drivers' title in Austin, Texas, yet another assertion of his greatness, or Vincent Kompany's blockbuster strike for Manchester City against Leicester City or Tiger Woods's astonishing victory in the Masters at Augusta, the fallen hero riding to redemption, or Katarina Johnson-Thompson and Dina Asher-Smith claiming gold at the World Athletics Championships.

I could go on. For whichever moment you pick — and there are so many more — it is surely fair to say that 2019 has been one of the outstanding sporting years of modern times, a tapestry of dramatic contests, heroic cameos and detonations of excellence. When Eliud Kipchoge ran the marathon in under two hours, with much technological support, it merely added to the sense of history.

And yet many of the most wonderful moments were, for me, of a rather different kind. The All Blacks were run ragged by England in the Rugby World Cup semi-final, defeated in a most comprehensive and unexpected way. Every New Zealand player knew that they would be vilified. Yet these fallen heroes bowed to the spectators, as they had done in each of their previous matches. They gave a guard of honour to their opponents. We witnessed a heartfelt hug between Ardie Savea and Billy Vunipola.

Then, in the post-match interview, Steven Hansen had the humanity to commend his conquerors. "I would like to congratulate England," the All Blacks coach said. "I think they were deserved winners tonight... we've got no regrets... we got beaten by a better side. I wish them all the best."

I warm to such moments — and there were many others, not least the dignity shown by the New Zealand cricket team after their defeat in the World Cup final — for they reveal that sport retains the capacity to showcase the best of humanity. I had the same thought watching Doddie Weir at the BBC *Sports Personality of the Year* ceremony, this gentleman of rugby receiving a standing ovation for his courageous work raising money for motor neurone disease.

And yet we have also seen the dark side of sport in the past year. There were fresh allegations of doping, not to mention match-fixing, bullying, racism, sexism, and state-sanctioned cheating. The medical tribunal weighing allegations of wrongdoing by Richard Freeman, the doctor previously at the heart of British Cycling and Team Sky, rumbles on in Manchester. Investigative journalists have been as busy as ever.

One should not be surprised by this. Corruption is not a facet of sport, but of humanity. At the original Olympic Games in the Western Peloponnese, competitors were warned against cheating by inscriptions threatening retribution from the gods. This didn't stop it happening on an industrial scale, however, not least when Eupolus, a boxer from Thessaly, bribed three opponents to take a dive in 388BC.

This is why most of us probably feel some residual ambivalence about organised sport, particularly as it has come to manifest itself in the early 21st century. Not just the cheating and chicanery, but the venality of governing bodies and the commercialism that often obscures more fundamental values. Sport continues to wrestle with these issues.

Taken in the round, however, 2019 was a year that showcased sport's inherent greatness. The way it reaches into hearts and minds, the way it dramatises competition, the way it make heroes out of mortals; above all, the way that one can be sitting at home, alone, as I was during the closing minutes of Stokes's innings at Headingley, and yet find oneself getting to one's feet, stomach churning, gripped by the sight of grown men playing a game in flannels.

There was a moment during England's match against South Africa at the start of the World Cup that remains etched on the memory. Andile Phehlukwayo slog-swept the ball towards the boundary and it looked, for all the world, that it would clear the ropes. At that moment, Stokes leapt high and true, the ball hitting the meat of his palm — and sticking.

There was a moment of stunned silence, then a collective gasp. The sound of that gasp will be familiar to all sports fans, familiar to anyone who has devoted a quantum of time to these gloriously trivial games. A gasp that did not just express admiration, or even awe, but the distinctive thrill of witnessing people performing feats of pure athletic virtuosity.

Behind him, the crowd rose as one. Men and women, young and old, were united in rapture. Jaws were open, hands were raised, eyes were wide. Isn't this why we love sport? Isn't this why we keep coming back? Isn't this why we are never sated?

2019 is almost over. Roll on 2020.

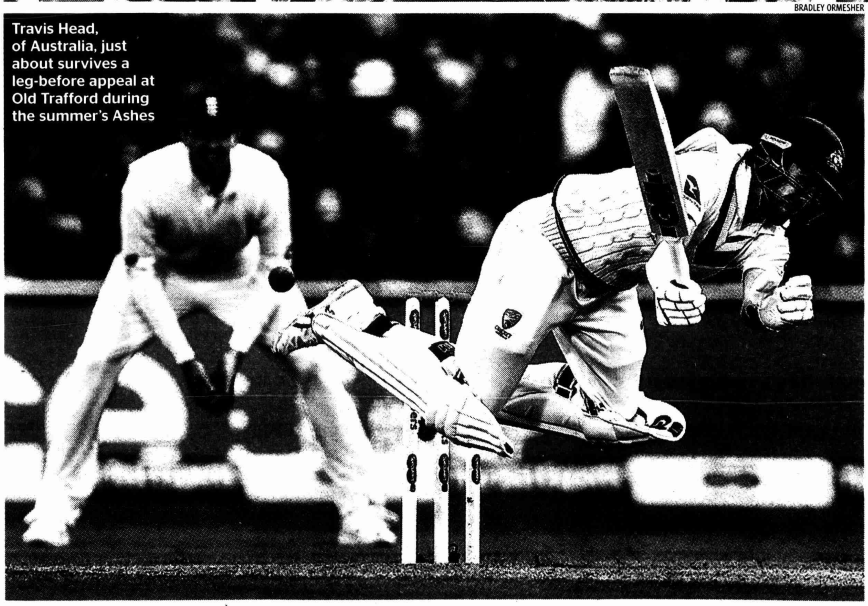
Reviews of the decade

Analysis of the past ten years in boxing and Formula One

Read the latest instalments at thetimes.co.uk/sport

Times photographers Marc Aspland and Bradley Ormesher choose their pictures of the year

BRADLEY ORMESHER



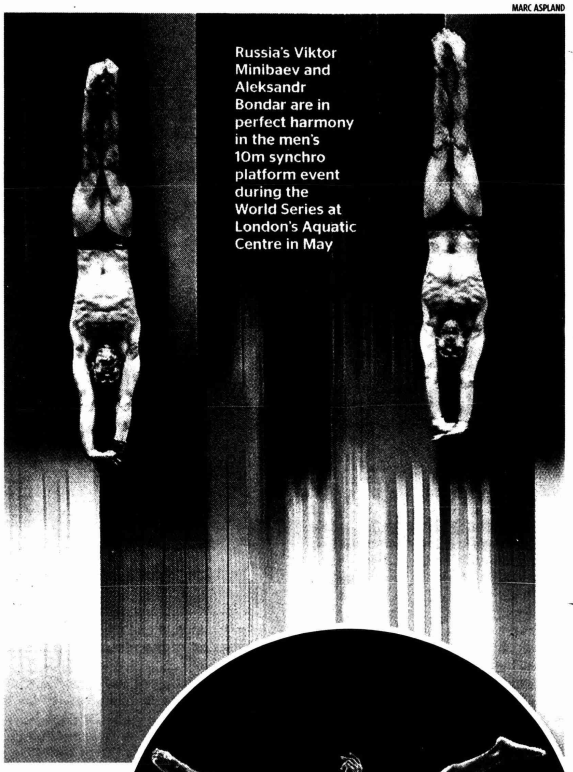
Travis Head, of Australia, just about survives a leg-before appeal at Old Trafford during the summer's Ashes

showed humanity at its best

BRADLEY ORMESHER

More than 750,000 people line the streets to see Liverpool bring home the Champions League trophy in a tickertape parade in June after their win over Tottenham

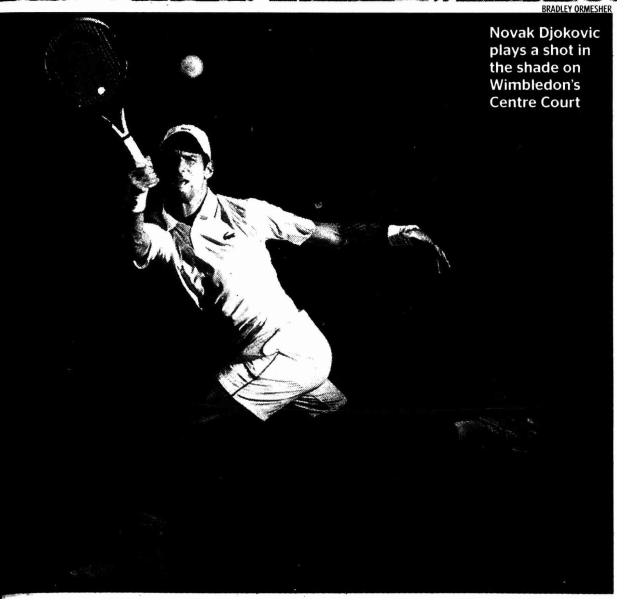
MARC ASPLAND



Russia's Viktor Minibaev and Aleksandr Bondar are in perfect harmony in the men's 10m synchro platform event during the World Series at London's Aquatic Centre in May

Simone Biles, the four-times Olympic champion, seems to defy gravity on the beam at a Superstars of Gymnastics event at the O2 arena in March

BRADLEY ORMESHER



Novak Djokovic plays a shot in the shade on Wimbledon's Centre Court

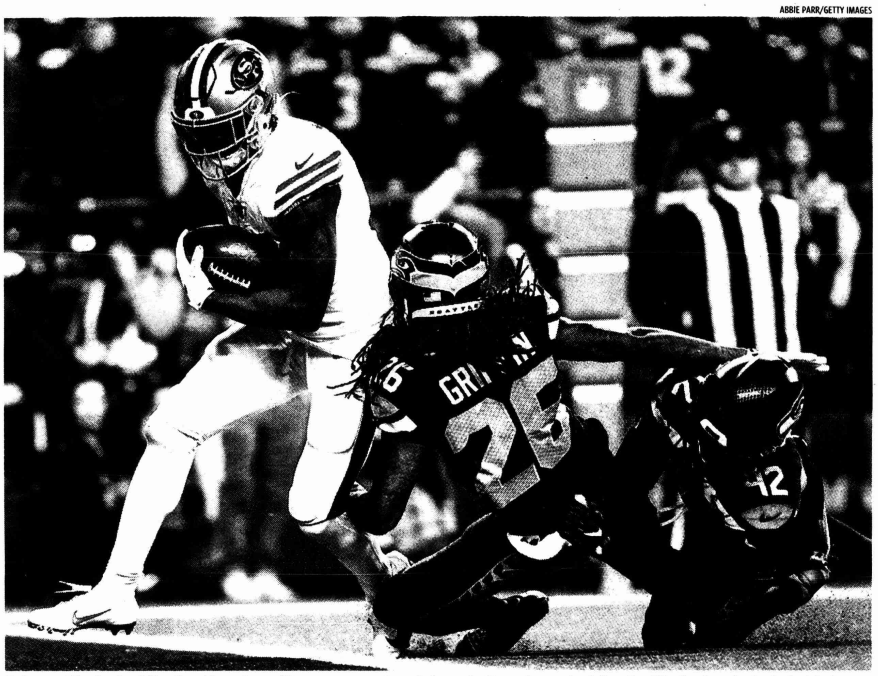
MARC ASPLAND

Eoin Morgan holds aloft the World Cup after England's thrilling win over New Zealand at Lord's in July

Sport

Patriots must make do with wild card

ABBIE PARR/GETTY IMAGES



Raheem Mostert, of the San Francisco 49ers, scores a touchdown in the win against the Seattle Seahawks to help his team earn a first-round play-off bye and home-field advantage as the NFC's top seed. Seattle will play in Philadelphia on Sunday

American football
Charles Walford

Tom Brady's tilt at winning a seventh Super Bowl was made harder on Sunday after his New England Patriots side were consigned to the wild-card play-off round for the first time in ten seasons.

The Patriots had already clinched the AFC East, but a shock 27-24 defeat by the Miami Dolphins in the last game of the regular season allowed the Kansas City Chiefs and their star quarterback Patrick Mahomes to take the second seeding in the AFC and a bye this weekend.

In each of Brady's six championship seasons the Patriots have gone straight through to the divisional round, while the four times he has played in the wild-card round they have failed to progress to the Super Bowl.

"It was a great chance for us to not play next week and we didn't take advantage," said the 42-year-old Brady, who is playing in his 20th season with the Patriots.

New England will now play the Tennessee Titans, who clinched the one remaining AFC play-off spot that was up for grabs going into Sunday's final round of NFL matches.

The Titans sealed the second wild-card spot with a 35-14 win over the Houston Texans, who had already won the AFC South and rested a number of players, including their quarterback Deshaun Watson. The Texans play the Buffalo Bills in the wild-card round in Houston on Saturday in the weekend's opening match.

As well as the Chiefs, awaiting the second AFC wild-card round winner will be Lamar Jackson, the young Baltimore Ravens quarterback who is among the leading candidates to be league MVP thanks to his play in leading his side to a 14-2 record and the No 1 seed.

As the Patriots hold the No 3 seed there will be no potential cross-generational meeting of Jackson and Brady until the conference championship round.

Going into Sunday, there was only one NFC play-off issue to be decided: who was going to finally claim the division that no-one seemed to want to win, the NFC East?

The Philadelphia Eagles, who continued to defy a horrendous injury list, took the honour by defeating the New York Giants and win the division at the expense of the Dallas Cowboys, who beat the Washington Redskins 47-16.

Three wins in a row, including a crucial defeat of the Cowboys in week 16, had left the Eagles needing to win on Sunday to reach the play-offs for the third season in a row and they duly delivered with a 34-17 victory.

The Cowboys' head coach, Jason Garrett, will rue a run-in which they lost four of their last six games and which last night looked set to cost Garrett his job after nine-and-a-half years in charge.

The Eagles, at 9-7, have the joint-worst record of any of the play-off teams, but they also have one of the most intimidating fanbases in the league and that will stand them in good stead against the Seattle Seahawks, who lost 26-21 in the Sunday-night shootout with the San Francisco 49ers that condemned them to a cross-country trip to Philadelphia on Sunday.

The prize for San Francisco was the all-important No 1 seeding in the NFC, which guaranteed them a first-round bye and home-field advantage throughout the play-offs.

The other NFL wild-card game is between the Minnesota Vikings and the New Orleans Saints, while the Green Bay Packers have secured the No 2 seed and a bye along with the 49ers.

The lowest seeded winners from the wild-card round in each division will play the No 1 seed, while the highest seeded winners will play the No 2 seed in the divisional round, with the winners of those matches advancing to the championship round.

The prize on offer then will be a trip to Super Bowl LIV in Miami on February 2.

The bookies think it will be the Ravens against the 49ers; we now know the ten teams who will be looking to prove them wrong.

Wild-card weekend

Houston Texans v Buffalo Bills
Saturday, 9.35pm
New England Patriots v Tennessee Titans
Sunday 1.15am
New Orleans Saints v Minnesota Vikings
Sunday, 6.05pm
Philadelphia Eagles v Seattle Seahawks
Sunday, 9.40pm
All live on Sky Sports Main Event

Van Gerwen and Wright reach final

Darts
Gary Jacob

Michael van Gerwen will have the chance to lift a fourth PDC World Championship title at London's Alexandra Palace tomorrow night but that should not disguise the fact that he was a worried man in overcoming Nathan Aspinall 6-3 in last night's semi-final.

The Dutchman, 30, will face Scotland's Peter Wright in a repeat of their 2014 final, which he won 7-4. The winner will collect £500,000 while the beaten finalist will pocket £200,000.

Van Gerwen averaged only 96.34 against England's Aspinall, a former trainee accountant, which was low by his standards.

Wright reached the final after a testy 6-3 win over Gerwyn Price, who has played up to being a pantomime villain and has had a frosty relationship with supporters and players.

Price was widely tipped to get to the final but the former Welsh rugby player toiled under the pressure, averaging only 89.94, and exited without shaking the hand of Wright after a series of unsavoury shenanigans on stage.

They began when Price, the No 3 seed, had got under the skin of Wright by saying he would "smash" him 6-0. So when Wright threw a 12-dart finish to take the opening set, he could not resist walking over to his opponent and patronising him with a couple of pats on his back.

Wright then swaggered off the stage and turned around to laugh at his opponent. Price appeared to respond with a derogatory comment and got his own back when he levelled at 1-1. As the pair exited the stage for a break, Price leant over and made another remark and Wright had to step to his left to avoid a potential confrontation. "We wound each other up," Wright said.

But Wright, 49, is no shrinking violet. He has a flamboyant personality and is liked by the fans who call him Snakebite – after his favourite drink.

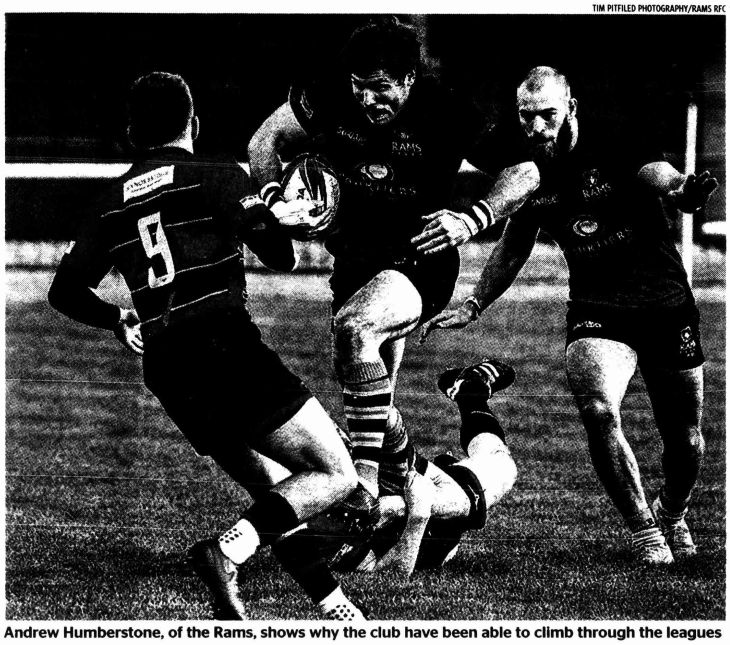
Wright was ranked No 2 in the world in 2017 but has slipped back five places and had changed his darts a number of times in an attempt to find form. He could not get away from Price, who made it 3-3 in sets. Wright, however, took the next three sets to claim victory.

Owen Slot

Rugby Writer of the Year

TIM PITFILED PHOTOGRAPHY/RAMS RFC

Humble rugby clubs are offering inspiration to all



Andrew Humberstone, of the Rams, shows why the club have been able to climb through the leagues

Some weeks ago, I wrote a column about the worst club in England. And maybe, as was pointed out, that wasn't the brightest or cheeriest of topics. So I asked openly, afterwards, for a kind of end-of-year fillip: what, then, are the best clubs in the country?

Not the clubs that you watch on TV and that win the trophies, but those lower down, where most rugby is played, where kids learn, where amateur rugby players get muddy and where they enjoy their clubhouses afterwards.

So I would like to call this column "The Best Clubs in England in 2019", but I can't because that would suggest this is a kind of scientific survey. It isn't. It is just *four of the best*, four short stories that say something about this sport.

RAMS RFC

A study commissioned by British Swimming in 2013 looked at how many top junior swimmers became successful seniors at world and Olympic level. The study showed an astonishingly small number — 6.9 per cent — made the step up. In other words, the sport is about late developers. This is exactly the thinking adopted by the Rams (previously known as Redingensians) who have made a remarkable climb though the leagues. Their belief is that rugby is also for late developers and that, because the professional club academies are making selection decisions about boys in their mid-teens, an army of late-emerging talent is slipping through. The Rams, in Berkshire, aim to catch them.

In 1997, the club had hit a kind of rock bottom, at level 8. Memorably for them, in that year, their under-13s lost a match to Newbury 110-0. In other words, those under-13 players were not the type to attract the big club academies. Yet that under-13 group stuck together; five years later, they started filtering into the seniors' first team and that team then achieved three promotions in four years.

Therein was the model set: work hard on developing local players and scooping up others who may have lost out elsewhere. Seb Reynolds, the director of rugby, understands this perfectly because he himself was in that 1997 under-13 team and then played through those years of promotion. So how do you polish these rough, unclaimed diamonds? The Rams' answer was to set up an academy with Reading University and another with a local school.

Two more promotions followed, the most recent one taking them, this season, into National League 1. Most clubs that rise so fast do so with a big-bucks backer, sometimes buying in Premiership and Championship players on their way down; the Rams target the missed talent on their way up. They pay match fees and win bonuses, not retainers, and they are some way below the spending cap at this level.

They are not just a thriving model club, they are a lesson for all rugby in identifying talent.

HORUS 7S

Four years ago, Rob Bugden, an RAF parachute instructor at Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, was left paralysed by a parachuting accident. His injury resulted in the birth of Horus 7s. He and his mate, Phil Thomas, had talked about starting a rugby team with the other parachute instructors and Rob's injury was the trigger for Phil to put their dream into action — thus the birth of Horus, so-named after the Egyptian god of the sky. They started with a few sevens tournaments. The first time that Bugden came out of hospital was to watch Horus playing against his home town club, Minety, neat Cirencester in Wiltshire. Yes, that was the start.

Thereafter, attention-seeking fundraising schemes took root, to help the charities and organisations that were helping Bugden. For instance, they broke the record for the longest ever game of sevens (24hr 30min).

This year, Horus has moved in a different direction. Once a week, their players have been going in to a local prison to teach the inmates rugby. The new prison team has played matches. Two ex-inmates have already joined other rugby clubs on leaving prison and Horus have found one player who they believe is sufficiently talented to play at a high level. He just has to get out first. The prison governor has been so impressed that moves are afoot to introduce similar rugby programmes to other prisons.

There is a lot left in this story, but here are two decent endings for now. At the National Rugby Awards at Twickenham, Thomas was shortlisted for the lifetime achievement award. He didn't win; being 32 years old seemed a bit young for lifetime achievement honours. And Bugden? He has made it into the GB team to go to the Invictus Games next year both in rowing and wheelchair rugby. The Horus 7s team will be there to support him.

STOCKTON RFC

The home town club of former England international Geoff Parling were on their knees six years ago. They had one senior side and struggled for a second; the minis and juniors together totalled 30 players. According to Graham Newton, the chairman of the County Durham club, "We were at the point of no return." The challenge, he says, was getting the kids from the school to the club. The club's old ground was three miles out of town, which didn't help. So they arrived at a possible solution: if we can't get the kids to the club, then let's take the club to them.

They therefore moved out of the ground that had been their home for more than 100 years. That didn't go down without attracting opposition (does it ever?). Instead they moved to a groundshare scheme with Grangefield Academy school in the town. They shared the playing fields, saved the sports hall that was about to be demolished, and started doing sessions after lessons at Grangefield and the other local schools. This meant that the pupils had an after-school club to go to. Newton remembers opening the gates and just wondering if anyone would come. They did.

The club now has 350 kids and teams at every age group up to under-18. They also have two girls teams, which they had never had before, at under-13 and under-15, and four men's sides playing regularly at senior level. This is a story of rebirth.

ETON MANOR RFC

Sometimes you need to innovate to survive. Wensleydale RFC, in Yorkshire, for instance, turn their club and facilities into a camping and caravan site every summer. Eton Manor RFC, in east London decided to become one of the greenest clubs in the country.

They were being hammered by their utility bills. They couldn't afford to water the pitch in the summer and, in the winters, they so struggled to heat the clubhouse that the barstaff would be wearing ski jackets.

Here was the solution:

1) A 120-metre borehole to extract water; this saves about £6,000 a year in water bills
2) A solar electricity generator on the roof; this makes savings of £2,700 a year
3) Two ground-source heat pumps which provide clubhouse heating (the barstaff now serve in T-shirts) and hot water requirements; savings here are £6,500 a year
4) A bespoke ice battery storage system. This is a by-product of using the heat pumps, is used for a sustainable cellar and drinks cooling and makes savings of £2,000 a year.

The project required a £200,000 (subsidised) investment. Over 20 years, it is expected to bring a return of £344,000. The knock-on effects have been felt within the club: it is warm, hospitable, and has triggered participation growth which was then rewarded by an RFU grant for a 4G pitch.

This push for sustainability has had a multiplier effect too. On a small scale, some club members have moved to using renewable energy. On a bigger scale, pretty much every month, Eton Manor has other clubs coming to visit to see if they should follow suit. Rugby loves to embrace its traditions; here it is embracing the future.

Knight double gives Derby much-needed win

Derby County *Knight 10, 77*	2	
Charlton Athletic *Taylor 83 (pen)*	1	

Sky Bet Championship
Graham Hill

Derby County have played their last match before Wayne Rooney makes his debut for the club and the former England captain would have been excited by Jason Knight's match-winning performance. The Ireland Under-21 international scored the first two goals of his professional career to give Phillip Cocu's side a first win in eight matches.

Knight, 18, opened the scoring after ten minutes when he bundled the ball in at the back post after Martyn Waghorn's shot had been saved by the Charlton Athletic goalkeeper Dillon Phillips.

The home side's task was made more difficult seven minutes later when Krystian Bielik was sent off for a bad challenge on Conor Gallagher. But Derby remained the better side and Jack Marriott saw an effort drift wide. They doubled their lead in the 77th minute when Knight converted Max Bird's cross.

Charlton then pulled a goal back from the penalty spot through substitute Lyle Taylor after Curtis Davies had fouled Gallagher and Derby had their goalkeeper Ben Hamer to thank late on when he produced a superb double save from Ben Dempsey and Taylor.

CONTINUED FROM BACK

Scudamore in £10m swansong

in Scudamore being rewarded with £4.8 million for the 2019-22 rights.

That would be a £300,000 increase from the 2016-19 figure, even though the value of the domestic TV contracts fell by 7.5 per cent from £5.4 billion to £5 billion. The increase in overseas TV deals' values from £3.1 billion to £4.2 billion more than compensated for the fall in the amount paid by Sky, BT Sport, BBC and Amazon, which would explain any increase in Scudamore's bonus.

The Premier League's audit and remuneration committee, headed by the Chelsea chairman Bruce Buck, decided on the level of the bonuses and it was also Buck who persuaded the clubs to agree to each contribute £250,000 as a "golden farewell" for Scudamore, though the money is being paid out from the Premier League's central funds.

The £5 million payoff proved controversial, with supporters' groups criticising the decision given that Scudamore also stood to earn the TV rights bonuses. Richard Masters, who had been in the interim chief executive's role after Scudamore's exit, was appointed to the post this month, a move which many in the game had thought should have happened months earlier.

Sport Football

VAR is causing mayhem: this is

Peter Walton

Former Premier League referee

Whether you like it or not, football is stuck with technology. Video assistant referees are commonplace in major leagues across the globe and at Fifa tournaments such as the men's and women's World Cups. No more time should be wasted debating whether VAR should be scrapped. We should be focusing instead on identifying solutions to the issues with its application.

This weekend, in which no fewer than five goals for Wolverhampton Wanderers, Crystal Palace, Norwich City, Brighton & Hove Albion and Sheffield United were chalked off for the most marginal of offside calls, highlighted the biggest problem with VAR. These are my suggestions for how this and other issues with VAR could be solved.

STICK TO CLEAR AND OBVIOUS

The founding principle of VAR was that it should only deal with "clear and obvious" errors. The aim was to correct glaring mistakes such as Diego Maradona's "Hand of God" goal or Thierry Henry's handball against Ireland — not go looking for whether a toe or armpit was offside.

Incidents that need several minutes and multiple camera angles to be reviewed must be neither "clear" nor "obvious". Lukas Brud, the general secretary of football's lawmaking body, Ifab, reiterated that point yesterday. "If something is not clear on the first sight, then it's not obvious and shouldn't be considered," he said.

Major League Soccer (MLS) in the United States has struck upon the right balance. Their VARs still check for offsides but judge replays with the naked eye rather than by drawing lines. This means that only the glaring mistakes are overturned.

It is important to stress that VAR is working well in other areas. Sadio Mané's winning goal for Liverpool against Wolves was correctly awarded after replays showed Adam Lallana had not handled the ball in the build-up.

CHANGE THE OFFSIDE LAW

The laws of the game state that a player is either onside or offside. It means that when you apply technology that can analyse frame-by-frame replays, a player can be offside by tiny margins.

Graeme Souness, speaking on Sky Sports on Sunday, argued that the laws themselves should be changed to reflect the introduction of VAR. He said: "What we should do is say that if any part of an attacker is in an onside position they can't be given offside." Other suggestions have included a "daylight" rule that means a player can only be offside if there is a clear gap between the bodies of the attacking and defending players.

Both of these proposals would only result in the lines for offside being drawn in a different place. With Souness's idea, for example, a player could be onside by a heel rather than offside by a toe. It would not eradicate the incredibly tight calls we have been seeing.

An alternative suggestion would be to account for the margin of error in the technology and build in an "umpire's call" for borderline decisions. When wickets are reviewed in cricket, the on-field umpire's decision is upheld if the incident is too close to call. In football, it would mean offsides such as that which denied the Wolves striker Pedro Neto an equaliser against Liverpool on Sunday would be handed back to the on-field referee to decide by watching the pitchside monitor.

USE THE SCREENS

Referees must start using their pitchside monitors, which so far have been gathering dust at Premier League grounds. The on-field referee must be seen to give the final decision for two reasons.

First, a contentious decision is more easily accepted by those in the stadium if they have seen the referee make the call themselves. Second, it gives reassurance to the on-field officials. If I were refereeing now and VAR had overturned a penalty I had awarded, that decision would still play on my mind. Unless I had seen a replay, there would remain an element of doubt.

Roberto Rosetti, Uefa's chief refereeing officer, insists that all of his referees consult their monitors. The Premier League believes this would slow down the game but, as it is, decisions are taking far too long to review.

INTRODUCE A TIME LIMIT

When VAR was in its testing stage, it was calculated that "clear and obvious" decisions took 42 seconds to review. *The Times* has found that, on average, it has taken 89 seconds for decisions to be reviewed in the Premier League. It was never envisaged that decisions could take up more than three minutes.

One way to speed up the process would be to give the VAR a cut-off point of one minute to review a decision. If they could not reach a clear conclusion in that time, the on-field referee would be able to watch a replay themselves and have the final say.

Mané's winning goal for Liverpool against Wolves was correctly awarded after replays showed Lallana had not handled the

IMPROVE COMMUNICATION

While decisions are communicated on screens in Premier League stadiums, supporters are not able to hear how they are reached. Other leagues are taking steps to improve this.

Australia's A-League is now showing the conversation between the on-field officials and VAR for red cards after matches. Their referees speak to one reporter after games who is able to ask questions about key decisions. The MLS, meanwhile, is looking at giving microphones to the fourth officials. At the very least, more detail should be given over the PA system to keep fans in the grounds informed.

How the Premier League might look without VAR

Premier League table as of today

Position			Points	GD
1		Liverpool	55	+33
2		Leicester	42	+24
3		Man City	41	+31
4		Chelsea	35	+7
5		Man Utd	31	+9
6		Tottenham	30	+7
7		Wolves	30	+4
8		Sheff Utd	29	+4
9		Crystal Palace	27	-4
10		Everton	25	-7
11		Newcastle	25	-10
12		Arsenal	24	-4
13		Burnley	24	-9
14		Brighton	23	-4
15		Southampton	22	-14
16		Bournemouth	20	-8
17		West Ham	19	-11
18		Aston Villa	18	-11
19		Watford	16	-18
20		Norwich	13	-19

Liverpool's lead would be cut from 13pts to 6pts

Only goals scored would be keeping Wolves out of the top four

Sheffield United would be 3pts better off and 1pt closer to the top four

Tottenham would be 7pts off relegation rather than 5pts off the top four

Bournemouth would replace Villa in bottom three

West Ham, who have just sacked Manuel Pellegrini, would be 5pts clear of danger rather than 1pt

Biggest winners: VAR decisions have given Tottenham 6pts

Fifa considers 'clear daylight' offside law

CONTINUED FROM BACK

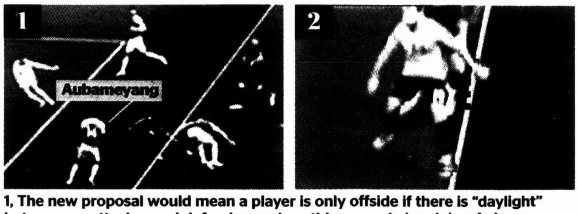
allow flexibility on a black-and-white decision. That is also why it may favour the "clear daylight" approach.

A similar idea has been floating around football for some time — it was even suggested by the former Premier League head of referees Philip Don at the start of the millennium as a rough guide for linesmen to be certain that a player was offside.

Graeme Souness, the former Liverpool and Rangers manager, proposed something similar at the weekend after being frustrated by the rash of disallowed goals.

He said on Sky Sports: "We're in the entertainment business. What we're doing is denying the people the enjoyment of goals. What we should do is say that if any part of an attacker is in an onside position they can't be given offside. We cannot go on like this. There's too much frustration going on."

The idea has won some backing among Premier League clubs.

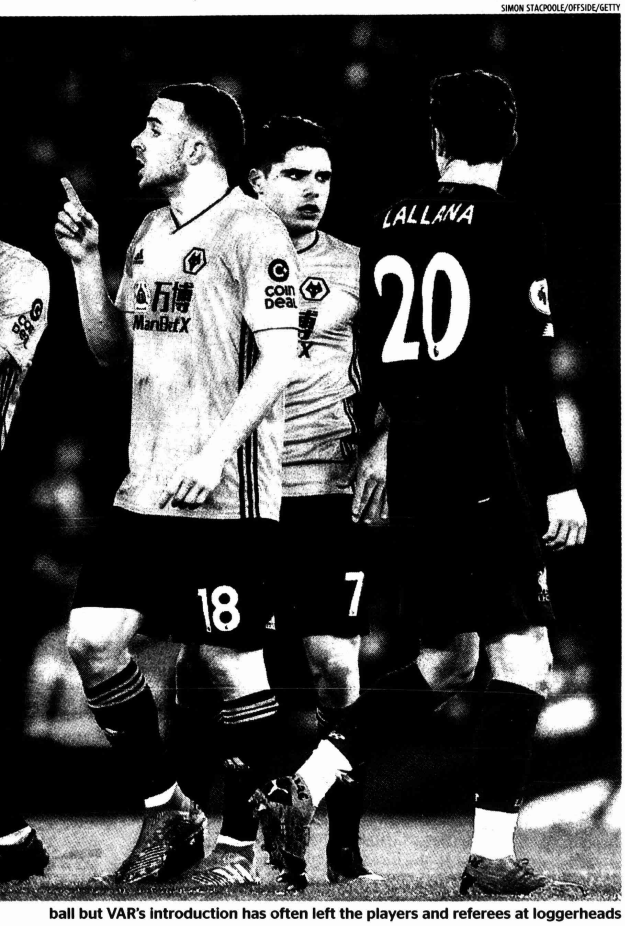


1, The new proposal would mean a player is only offside if there is "daylight" between an attacker and defender, such as this example involving Aubameyang last season 2, It would mean that Wolves wing back Jonny would have not been offside in the build-up to his team's disallowed goal against Liverpool on Sunday

One chief executive said: "VAR as a label is getting an unfair press, it's just applying the laws of the game. If Ifab were to change the law, daylight between defender and attacker could work."

how to fix it

SIMON STACPOOLE/OFFSIDE/GETTY



ball but VAR's introduction has often left the players and referees at loggerheads

By Bill Edgar

Premier League without VAR

Position			Points	GD	Points change	Position change
→	1	Liverpool	50	+31	-5	0
→	2	Man City	44	+31	+3	1
→	3	Leicester	37	+20	-5	▼1
→	4	Chelsea	37	+9	+2	0
→	5	Wolves	37	+9	+7	2
→	6	Sheff Utd	32	+10	+3	2
→	7	Man Utd	30	+8	-1	▼2
→	8	Everton	27	-5	+2	2
→	9	Crystal Palace	26	-5	-1	0
→	10	Arsenal	25	-3	+1	2
→	11	Newcastle	25	-11	0	0
→	12	Tottenham	24	+5	-6	▼6
→	13	Burnley	24	-9	0	0
→	14	West Ham	22	-8	+3	3
→	15	Brighton	21	-7	-2	▼1
→	16	Aston Villa	20	-9	+2	2
→	17	Southampton	18	-19	-4	▼2
→	18	Bournemouth	17	-10	-3	▼2
→	19	Norwich	17	-18	+4	1
→	20	Watford	16	-19	0	▼1

Biggest losers: VAR decisions have cost Wolves 7pts

How we calculated the table

While this table is not scientific, it gives an indication of the impact of VAR on each club.

- If a team was awarded a goal by VAR it is removed from their tally (and vice versa).
- If a team scores a penalty that was awarded by VAR, that goal is removed from their tally. Goals scored from retaken penalties awarded by VAR also do not count.
- If a team has had a penalty struck off by VAR, we do not assume the penalty would have been scored without VAR.
- Red cards awarded or struck off by VAR do not affect our table. The effect of red cards is too speculative, even though Southampton having a player sent off by VAR at 1-0 down to Leicester doubtless had a part in them losing 9-0.

'You get used to the stream of hate – and just move on'

In 2020 we will hear the first female football commentator on Sky. **Alyson Rudd** meets four women crucial to the channel's coverage

Caroline Barker, 39
Favourite player: Lance Pedler, Chelmsford City winger

Barker is in a cupboard-sized room at Craven Cottage. A member of the Sky production team indicates with a grimace that the sound failed when she asked Scott Parker about his team selection. She smiles at the Fulham manager and apologises and tells him that at least now he knows what the question will be. Barker is counted back on air and asks Parker a slightly different question. It keeps his response fresh but not quite startled.

Barker is a regular reporter for Sky's Championship coverage but she has been practising dummy commentaries in preparation for becoming Sky's first female football commentator. Her first game will probably be in February when she returns from making a documentary about the Super Bowl.

"I want it to be right that I'm doing commentary," she says, "and there's no fanfare and it's just someone commentating. You shouldn't be the story, you're just the narrator."

She has plenty of live commentary experience already, including football for BBC London, women's football for Radio 5 Live and some netball matches but Sky took her on because they liked her journalistic skills and her ability to think on her feet.

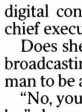
The first show she presented was Stockport County's visit to non-League Staines Town in the FA Cup in 2007 for BBC Radio London. The game was called off a few minutes before kick-off and she spent three hours interviewing the tea lady, who was in tears at all her wasted sandwiches, and the Staines owner who was, luckily, very chatty.

Her love of football stems from being the youngest of six children, all fans of Chelmsford City. Barker would clean the seats and she became one of the 100 fans who each paid £100 to own a share in the team.

After some success setting up a digital content company, she became chief executive of the club she loves.

Does she believe a woman in sports broadcasting has to be better than a man to be allowed to do the same role?

"No, you have to be the best you can be," she says, "you have to do your research and know the story. You've got to make sure the story is told."



Kelly Cates, 44
Favourite player: Robbie Fowler, Liverpool striker

Cates' career — aged 22 and bored of her maths degree — began on Sky Sports News, broadcasting initially to no one because no satellite dishes were sold until Christmas, some months later.

"It was like film school," she says, and suspects that her first words on air were "good morning, sports fans" in "big hair and too much make-up and a tiny voice."

Her breakthrough came in 2005 when Liverpool reached the Champions League final. "Dave Jones was down to do the homecoming parade if Liverpool won it and I was down to do an England women's game at Coventry," she says, "and I went in to see the head of Sky Sports News and I said, 'I've just been thinking about this and I'm going to be in Istanbul for the final and I do know the club reasonably well. I know a lot of the stories and I'd know the guests. I think I could do this.' It was the first time I'd put myself forward for something."

Her bosses agreed that, as the daughter of Liverpool legend Kenny Dalglish, she probably would know everyone who would turn up, and so she flew in from Istanbul, picked her car up from Manchester, drove to St George's Hall and provided eight hours of broadcasting on Liverpool's fifth European Cup triumph on no sleep.

"I felt grown-up afterwards, it was almost better that I had no sleep and things were thrown at me. I loved it," she says. Given that her father cannot go anywhere without being recognised, I wonder why Cates was not worried about choosing a media career but she says no one ever recognises her and that people tune in for the game and the pundits but not the host.

"I got to a stage a while ago," she says, "where I can be really proud of [her dad Kenny Dalglish] without me feeling that it's me piggybacking on him."

She says there has been a push in the industry to promote more women "but once you're in the job, you do have to be better. There is more opportunity for a man to be mediocre while learning than there is for a woman."

Laura Woods, 32
Favourite player: David Seaman, Arsenal goalkeeper

This is Woods' 11th year at Sky and she has tried her hand at almost every aspect of sports broadcasting. She spent the Christmas period presenting darts and football.

"It's been a really long path but I'm glad it was," she says.

She studied print journalism and worked at the *Croydon Advertiser* but it left her cold. She pestered Sky Sports for work experience and was given a week on *Soccer AM* making tea. They liked her enthusiasm.

"I felt my world had erupted in colour," she says of the difference between print journalism and TV. She then worked on rugby, speedway, darts, snooker and pool coverage. "There was something about every element of TV I was really hungry for."

She became an editorial assistant, then an assistant producer, while wondering if she might be better cut out as a reporter and presenter.

"It's not about the ego," she says, "it's the fear of the unknown and conquering that fear, then getting better at it all the time. I ended up making YouTube videos because I couldn't get that little jump to go on air."

She snaffled a camera and interviewed darts players behind the scenes. "There were loads of subplots and funny characters," she says.

It led to pitch-side reporting for NFL games and then Soccer AM online. She took a campervan to the 2016 European Championship in France, where the viewing figures were high for a debate she hosted about Messi v Ronaldo and she found a relaxed broadcasting style.

"I'm not very good on the autocue at all," she says and so she hosts *The Debate* on Sky, interviews managers, and is an anchor on talkSPORT radio and its phone-ins.

Last season she made a mistake when delivering team news on Sky. "Everton's Jonjoe Kenny was playing and I said; 'Jonjo Shelvey'. I didn't bat an eyelid. I must have got 100 tweets about it. One person filmed it and put it out on social media and made a point of it being me, a woman getting it wrong, and I got a stream of hate underneath it. You get used to it and move on."

Eilidh Barbour, 37
Favourite player: Zinedine Zidane, France

Barbour started presenting Scottish football on Sky in August, taking over from Hayley McQueen "so I think the audience is used to a woman although I had a really strange conversation with an ex-player who thought my earpiece was for people to tell me what questions to ask."

When she told him that she came up with the questions for herself, he simply said, astonished, "Wow'"

She recalls, aged 12, watching *Grandstand* on a Saturday when Hazel Irvine was presenting. "That was a big moment," she says. "I don't remember it as a big moment because she was female but because she was Scottish. There was a Scottish accent on national TV and I could see she was no different to me doing a job talking about sport. She was inspirational."

Barbour studied film and media at Stirling University, then left for South Korea to teach English and earn money so she could gain work experience and make contacts on her return. Her first contract was sports editing on STV.

"I don't think I ever decided to present," she says, "it just happened that way. I like talking to people. I just wanted to be involved in sport. I'm still learning the ropes in a lot of ways.

"Scottish football is what I watched every Saturday with my dad from the age of 12. My first game was St Johnstone, my team, against Motherwell, a 0-0 draw. Somehow I still went back."

Almost recovered from a serious ankle injury, Barbour is training with Partick Thistle Women, the last team she played for as a right back.

She grew up in Dunkeld, a village small enough for the boys and girls to play football together, and she bristles when I ask about the predictability of Scottish football. "We've got a better challenge in Scotland than we've got in England right now," she says. "I've always felt I need to work harder [as a woman]. I don't like to leave anything to chance. I like to have done my research."

Woods is part of Sky Sports Super Sunday coverage with Gary Neville

Sport Football

Hard work is only answer, warns Moyes

KIRSTY O'CONNOR/PA

Moyes, above, praised the West Ham owners for being "big enough" to take him back and arrived at the club at 7am yesterday morning to deliver an enthusiastic talk to the staff and take a training session, left

Gary Jacob

David Moyes quickly realised he had inherited a similar mess to when he first walked into West Ham United two years ago after listening to Mark Noble over dinner on Tuesday.

Moyes has spent his first two days back in east London trying to find out the reasons for the malaise and the club's stalwart, who stopped a training match recently to query the tactics and took Angelo Ogbonna to task in the defeat by Crystal Palace on Boxing Day, did not mince his words.

The training and discipline has been too lax under Manuel Pellegrini and Moyes is back to square one in trying to instil professionalism, a team culture and an identity. He once dropped Michail Antonio for being late for a team meeting and he would have taken a dim view of the midfielder crashing his Lamborghini Huracán into the bin shed of a family home while dressed as a snowman on Christmas Day.

"That was probably one of the biggest jobs last time, to make sure there was zero tolerance," Moyes said. "It looks like I am going back to that level and saying, 'This is how it is going to be. You either get on board or you don't because I haven't got enough time and enough games. If one or two of you don't like it then, sorry, let me know.'

"I've come in today and it nearly feels like déjà vu. I actually thought I had got rid of some of the things and we'd sort of got to the bit where there was quite a lot of non-negotiables, like, 'You're doing the work.' I feel as if I might need to go back to the start and say, 'We're back to here.' I would have liked to have come in with a new message."

He will take charge for the first time at home to Bournemouth tomorrow. West Ham have lost seven of the past nine league matches and are one point outside the relegation zone. The Scot has no time to waste and arrived at the training ground at 7am yesterday to deliver enthusiastic talks to staff and players, asking for hard work. He took training by himself but will be joined in the next day by Alan Irvine, his trusty assistant, and potentially Stuart Pearce if the former defender can negotiate his existing commitments.

"Mark Noble has been incredibly helpful," Moyes said. "He carries a lot of the responsibility, he takes it, he feels it. He's so desperate and so fed up having to scrap around the bottom."

Moyes gleaned more details over lunch with David Gold, the vice-chairman who championed his return. The club have broken their transfer record to sign Felipe Anderson and Sébastien Haller in the past two summers. Moyes feels the squad is unbalanced with not enough steel in midfield but finding recruits will not be easy. There is money to spend. He used a wing-back system last time and may do so again to shore up a defence that has conceded 32 goals in 19 league matches.

"I believe they have got a lot of good players, have spent well and we need those players to stand up and show exactly what they can do," Moyes said. "Getting the right balance, right team, right formation is something I'm going to work on. I'll be looking to see, 'Come on, who is going to stand up? Who is going to get the jersey?' It will be difficult to name my first XI because some weeks they play well, some weeks they don't. It's about finding consistency. It's for the players to grab the shirt and say, 'I'm keeping this.' We want them all to jump up a couple of pegs."

His first six matches

Tomorrow Bournemouth (h)
League position: 16th
Sunday Gillingham (a)
FA Cup third round
Jan 10 Sheff Utd (a) 8th
Jan 18 Everton (h) 10th
Jan 22 Leicester (a) 2nd
Jan 29 Liverpool (h) 1st

He is the fourth managerial appointment since 2015 and the club have faced a relegation battle in three of these five campaigns including the present one. He led them to safety in 2018 when he won nine of his 31 league matches, including two of the final three. A section of the supporters were not convinced by him and his playing style, which in part contributed to the club's decision to seek another manager.

"West Ham might need someone to take them through a period or give them a piece of stability," he said. "I want to get an identity back to West Ham where the supporters can connect with it."

West Ham had said they wanted a high-calibre manager to take them to the next level when they decided not to give Moyes a longer deal in May 2018. He said there were no hard feelings and he appreciated the West Ham owners returning to him.

"I have always felt I am an extremely experienced manager and there are very few who will have had the games and wins over my time," he said. "I was disappointed I didn't stay, which I said. The biggest thing is that the owners have been big enough to say, 'David, will you come back?'

"What anybody is getting with me is an experienced manager. I've got the biggest win rate out of a certain number of managers as well. Put it that way, I win."

He will earn a bonus of £2 million if West Ham stay up and has signed an 18-month contract that can be extended if he does well. "I am thrilled to go again and make it impossible that the clause will not be implemented," he said. "Now it's for the players to carry it out."

A man in a hurry – how Gerrard has transformed Rangers

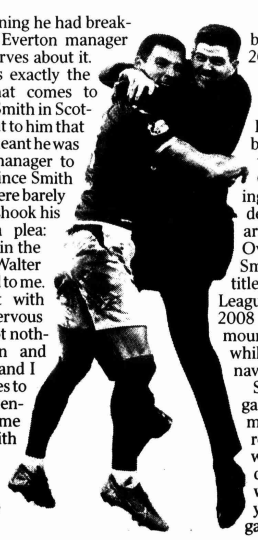
Michael Grant
Scottish Football Correspondent

Steven Gerrard shall not be moved. As the dust was settling on the Old Firm game, Gerrard was winding down his media obligations in a corridor deep in the bowels of Celtic Park. Surrounded by a handful of reporters, and midway through his first answer, a member of the Celtic staff interjected to ask if everyone could move out into the stand to allow more room in the passageway. The request was polite and so was the reply: "You'll just have to wait, mate." It was sufficiently firm that he was not asked a second time.

To Gerrard, a Rangers manager does not get asked to move along inside Celtic Park, just as a Celtic manager would get his space at Ibrox. Gerrard never played for either of the Glasgow clubs but he instinctively "gets" the Old Firm. The urban working-class upbringing, the fevered rivalry, the division, the fanaticism, the unwritten codes of respect, the vast fanbases, the sheer necessity of winning the derbies: that's not only the Old Firm story but his own.

On Saturday morning he had breakfast with a former Everton manager and was a bag of nerves about it. Not that Everton is exactly the first association that comes to mind about Walter Smith in Scotland. When it was put to him that Sunday's 2-1 result meant he was the first Rangers manager to win at Celtic Park since Smith in 2010, the words were barely out before Gerrard shook his head and made a plea: "Don't mention me in the same breath as Walter Smith. He is a legend to me.

"I had breakfast with him and I was as nervous as a kitten. I have got nothing but admiration and respect for the guy and I love it when he comes to see me. But don't mention me in the same breath as Walter Smith ... please."



Gerrard has given Rangers confidence and momentum

The pair of them go way back. Between 1998 and 2002 Gerrard was part of Liverpool's engine room in five Merseyside derbies against Smith's Everton sides. Predictably he had the better of their clashes but in Glasgow there was nothing affected about him deferring to Smith. They are on the same side now. Over his two spells at Ibrox Smith, 71, won ten league titles, five Scottish Cups, six League Cups and reached the 2008 Uefa Cup final. It was a mountainous Rangers career, while Gerrard, 39, is still navigating the foothills.

Sunday was his 97th game in charge and the most significant domestic result so far. Yes, Rangers won their two home derbies last season and were joint top at new year. But Celtic still had a game in hand at that point whereas this time Rangers are two behind with a game in hand of their own. More significantly, they are eight points ahead of their total 12 months ago having played two games fewer. In the first half of the season they have shown the consistency of champions. They have an encouraging run to come too, having played only eight home games in their 19 league fixtures so far.

In the two Old Firm games this month Rangers have controlled the midfield, suffocated Celtic and deserved to win both times even though they were beaten by an offside goal in the Betfred Cup final. The era of four and five-nil Celtic wins is over. Gerrard has worked out Celtic, for now at least, and seems perfectly able to handle an Old Firm environment that has consumed and broken some managers. The recent contract extension to 2024 underlined the sense that he will lead Rangers towards their first major trophy since 2011, after which their financial implosion brought four years in the lower divisions and endless humiliations. Celtic's march towards nine and maybe ten consecutive titles is no longer the formality it had looked.

Eight of the starting team on Sunday were his signings. Ryan Kent, Connor Goldson, Borna Barisic, Nikola Katic, Joe Aribo and Glen Kamara cost a combined £14.6 million. Allan McGregor and Steven Davis were free. Only Alfredo Morelos, James Tavernier and Ryan Jack were there before Gerrard arrived 19 months ago. "The team needed a spine, a lot of change," he said. "It needed big players who weren't scared of the big occasion. It had some, and it had a few that were coming to the end that I wished were ten years younger, like your Kenny Millers. But there were a lot of changes that needed to happen. We had to virtually wipe it clean over two or three transfer windows. We are still not finished."

Celtic posted cash reserves of £38.9 million in their most recent accounts and can easily outspend Rangers in January. But whether they can significantly improve ahead of the remaining two league derbies will come down to availability. Rangers have invested heavily, have far less money left and will do less in the market, but with Gerrard they have two priceless commodities: confidence and momentum.

Henry Winter

Chief Football Writer

Boys of summer have spring in step

Wherever you look in the Premier League now, noting the admired goalkeepers, talented defenders, sparky playmakers and leading scorers, there are members of the underachieving England under-21s who returned chastened from their summer Euros in Italy. They have grown up fast and their prominence is an important, if rarely mentioned, theme to the season heading into 2020, which contains the senior Euros.

Gareth Southgate, his assistant Steve Holland and the FA's technical director, Les Reed, travelled to the Adriatic last June to watch Aidy Boothroyd's players in training, during games and around the hotel, and ended up questioning the attitude of some on and off the field. At the risk of going over painful ground, England's abject group performances were scarred by a surreal Aaron Wan-Bissaka own goal, costly mistakes by Dean Henderson and James Maddison and the bizarre sight of Boothroyd using Tammy Abraham and Dominic Calvert-Lewin on the flanks in the defeat by France in Cesena. Romania then put four goals in 17 minutes past Henderson, again in Cesena, and the humiliation continued with England letting slip the lead three times in the dead-rubber match against Croatia in San Marino. Boothroyd's players were accused of poor concentration, laxity in possession, not respecting the opposition, basically being arrogant. Yet here they are, lighting up the packed houses of the Premier League, earning glowing reviews, being praised for their application as well as abilities.

The reaction of Southgate and most of the players to that sojourn in Italy has led to the Premier League having more of a home-grown feel this season and is why England go into the new year with more options and even more confidence. Southgate challenged Boothroyd's players to show that they were worthy of starting regularly for their clubs and also to play with sufficient hunger to make the senior squad. Now look at them. Abraham, Mason Mount, Maddison, Wan-Bissaka and Dean Henderson should be in Southgate's 23 for the senior Euros, given their form; Mount may even start. Fikayo Tomori and Calvert-Lewin could be involved. Southgate keeps namechecking Phil Foden too.

The FA, clubs and players themselves, and those who guide them (whether enlightened parents or agents), deserve praise for this welcome development. The FA's commitment to small-sided games up to under-12 level, and particularly Southgate's campaigning when head of elite development, has meant more skills-based football. So do the cages in urban areas such as south London, where Callum Hudson-Odoi, Jadon Sancho and one of the boys of summer, Ryan Sessegnon, sharpened their technique in "free-form" games. "We want to show our skills," Hudson-Odoi said after training on senior duty at St George's Park last month. "Cage football helps a lot."

As the year comes to an end, as the frenzy of the domestic game dominates thoughts, it is worth noting these important themes. The

increasing depth of youthful flair is reflected in the reality that also eligible for the under-21s last summer were Trent Alexander-Arnold, Joe Gomez, Dele Alli, Harry Winks, Marcus Rashford, Sancho and Ben Chilwell, while Hudson-Odoi and Ruben Loftus-Cheek were ruled out by injury. Southgate was focused on the Nations League last summer, so Boothroyd was denied substantial talent.

And if he criticised his players for aberrations and a worst tournament since 2013, their response to the summertime blues has been admirable: 16 of Boothroyd's 23 from Italy were involved in last weekend's ten Premier League games. They can clearly see the pathway to the seniors. The chance of being included in such a huge national party, with England's group games at Wembley, must also be a motivation.

Maybe they are simply enjoying better coaching at clubs than under Boothroyd, although the under-21s' results (involving players from last summer, such as Foden and Reiss Nelson, plus a new generation in Mason Greenwood and Rhian Brewster) have been impressive in qualifying for Euro 2021. England top group three with four wins from four.

Maybe the relative success of the seniors, reaching the semi-finals of the World Cup in 2018 and Nations League in 2019, has brought English footballing stock back into fashion. Maybe, also, younger managers are prepared to give youth a chance, as Frank Lampard is at Chelsea. The influence of Lampard's assistant, Jody Morris, also needs recognising.

A scroll through the weekend's team-sheets, beginning on Saturday, saw the boys of summer heavily involved in deep midwinter. Dominic Solanke played 90 minutes for Bournemouth at the Amex. Calvert-Lewin took apart Newcastle United's defence and scored twice, taking his Everton tally to ten goals in 22 appearances. Angus Gunn was on the bench for Southampton against Crystal Palace. Ezri Konsa started for Aston Villa against Watford. Sessegnon played 90 minutes for Tottenham Hotspur against Norwich City.

Demarai Gray and Hamza Choudhury started for Leicester City at West Ham, with Gray scoring a sublime goal to seal Manuel Pellegrini's fate. Maddison and Harvey Barnes, who usually start for Leicester, came off the bench. Meanwhile, Wan-Bissaka stayed on the bench for Manchester United against Burnley on Saturday, but such has been Wan-Bissaka's form at right back that there is even some talk of the outstanding Alexander-Arnold being moved into England's midfield.

Nelson, the pacey Arsenal winger, was praised for his work down the right in the first half against Chelsea on Sunday. Tomori, Mount and Abraham started at the Emirates, Mount getting an assist and Abraham scoring the winner. Dean Henderson, the Manchester United goalkeeper on loan at Sheffield United, began at the Etihad. He let in two goals but has earned many plaudits for keeping seven clean sheets in his 19 appearances. Henderson is also being tipped as a contender to succeed David De Gea at Old Trafford one day and now looks increasingly likely to be Southgate's No 3 goalkeeper at the Euros.

Foden came off the bench for Manchester City against Sheffield United on Sunday, playing nine minutes, and there is plenty of talk among City fans about whether he needs to go out on loan, getting more starts than the one in ten Premier League appearances this season. Yet Foden will continue to learn from playing and training alongside David Silva and working under Pep Guardiola at City. He is only 19.

Of the seven summer boys not involved in the Premier League, Freddie Woodman, the goalkeeper on loan from Newcastle United, played his 25th game of the season for Swansea City against Barnsley, keeping a clean sheet at the weekend. Jay Dasilva played two thirds of Bristol City's win over Luton Town on loan from Chelsea. Jonjoe Kenny, the Everton defender on loan at Schalke, completed 90 minutes against Freiburg on December 21 before the Bundesliga winter break kicked in.

Three of the summer's 23 have been held back by injury. A dislocated shoulder has restricted Jake Clarke-Salter to seven appearances at Birmingham City on loan from Chelsea. Ankle and hamstring issues have limited Lloyd Kelly to one game for Bournemouth after his move from Bristol City for £13 million. A back problem has inhibited Morgan Gibbs-White's development at Wolves and he has made only ten appearances.

And then there is the perplexing case of Kieran Dowell, who is on loan at Derby County from Everton, and who was on the bench last night against Charlton. He has not done enough, whether that is due to his attitude or some tactical issue with his manager Phillip Cocu. But Dowell should look at the others from his brief summer spell in Italy, and see how they have kicked on, heading positively into 2020.

Aubameyang demands Arsenal exit so he 'can win trophies'

Gary Jacob

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has delivered the latest blow to Arsenal by telling them that he wants to join a club in the summer who are capable of winning trophies.

The club's top scorer wants to find a club that can offer him Champions League football, and fellow striker Alexandre Lacazette may also leave in the summer for the same reason. To add to Mikel Arteta's growing problems, the Arsenal head coach could lose Granit Xhaka next month.

It is understood that although Aubameyang has received recent interest, including from Barcelona, it would be difficult for him to leave in the January transfer window, which opens tomorrow. The forward shelved talks about signing a new deal this season and his present contract, worth about £200,000 a week, expires at the end of next season.

Aubameyang was the Premier League's joint top scorer with 22 goals last season and has 13 this term, half of his team's tally. Arsenal accept that the 30-year-old will have to be sold unless he commits his future after seeing Aaron Ramsey leave on a free transfer to Juventus. Aubameyang joined Arsenal for £56 million from Borussia Dortmund in January 2018, weeks after a proposed £62 million move to Chinese club Guangzhou Evergrande collapsed.

Arsenal will face a similar decision on Lacazette, 28, who will have two years left on his contract this summer.

The France forward, who has scored five league goals, has stalled on a new deal while he assesses their progress this season.

Arsenal have been trying to find a replacement for Xhaka, 27, should he leave. Hertha Berlin have offered to sign the midfielder on loan with an obligation to buy him for £25 million this summer.

Arteta has tried to persuade him to stay until the summer but Xhaka would like to sign for Hertha in time to join their squad who leave for a winter training camp in Florida on Friday.

Sport Cricket

England need stability to

Mike Atherton

Chief Cricket Correspondent, Cape Town

It is a glum England team who prepare to pack up and move to Cape Town. With more than 80 people in the touring party, including families, it is a logistical challenge too, especially with the dreaded lurgy hovering on everyone's shoulder, Dom Sibley being the latest victim and the 11th player to be affected.

Joe Root's team will be happy enough to get out of Sandton, Johannesburg, which brought them little cheer. Who knows what the change of scenery will bring: the sea air; Newlands, one of the great cricket grounds of the world, and the impending arrival of thousands more England supporters into the Cape for the second Test of this four-match series. Things can only look up.

The defeat in Centurion brought closure to a disappointing year of Test cricket, one without a series win unless you count the one-off victory against Ireland. Defeats in West Indies and New Zealand, a drawn Ashes series and now beginning a new series in South Africa with a thumping defeat: played 12, won 4, lost 6, drawn 2. A modest record.

The selectors have called on 23 players in that time. They have used four different openers; three No 3s; four wicketkeepers; three spinners; they have tried various combinations, ranging from five to six bowlers, a balanced attack and an all-seam attack. It has been hard to discern a pattern through it all, never mind progress. The Test team continue to suffer.

More changes are likely this week, although these things are inevitably fitness and illness dependent. Assuming full fitness, Jonny Bairstow will be one of those who make way, allowing Ollie Pope to resume his promising Test career. After 70 caps, Bairstow has become a fringe Test player as he returns to a ground where he really established himself with a maiden Test hundred four years ago.

His returns this year have been thin: 334 runs at an average of 18.55, with a highest score of 52. As with a number of established players, it would seem that his Test career is stagnating or on the decline. With these figures, he cannot really complain if he is left out at Newlands on Friday, as seems likely. Yet I have some sympathy for the Yorkshireman, and a look at his Test year in detail outlines why.

England management have dropped hints that spinner Bess could play

The 30-year-old began the year in Bridgetown, Barbados, batting at No 3 behind Keaton Jennings and Rory Burns, without the wicketkeeping gloves, and he remained there for the next Test in Antigua. In St Lucia, he got his wish to be given the gloves back and moved down to No 7. Against Ireland, a match he should not have played, given that it came a week after the World Cup final, he batted at No 5, made a pair, and was the wicketkeeper.

He kept wicket through the Ashes, starting off at No 7 then moving up to bat at No 6 and No 5. He was dropped for the New Zealand series and told that the wicketkeeping position would no longer be his, this despite excellent performances with the gloves over a three-year period. Although his returns as a batsman had been declining, he was told that his route back into the team would be as a specialist batsman, not a keeper. The gloves went not to the best keeper in the land, Ben Foakes, but Jos Buttler, similar in standard to Bairstow.

The selectors stressed that Bairstow had not been rested or rotated for New Zealand, but dropped. Normally, when dropped, you have to do something worthwhile to get back in or show improvement in areas of weakness. Bairstow played four T20 matches in New Zealand, spent some time in pre-tour camps in Potchefstroom and Cape Town, and then, hey presto, found himself in the Test squad for the tour to South Africa. Illness to Pope meant that he played in Centurion ahead of Zak Crawley, who had played in the previous Test in Hamilton: specialist batsman, No 6.

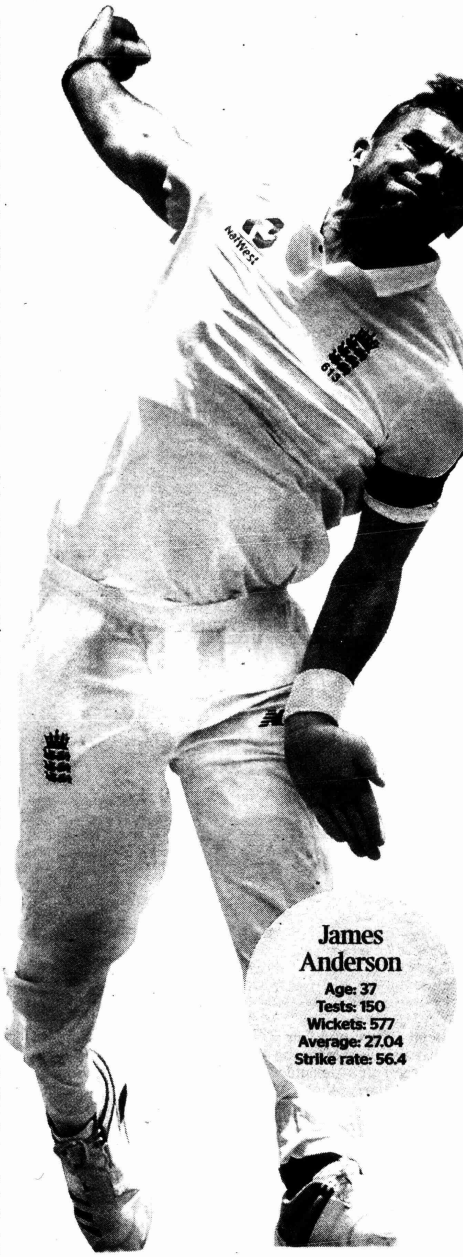
Having been at the top of his game for three years, Bairstow's decline and year of uncertainty is symptomatic of a team in flux, unsure of themselves in selection and playing style. There is a fine line between creativity in selection and confusion and if there is one new year's wish for England's Test cricket, it is for greater stability. Two more big decisions are likely to loom ahead of Cape Town: whether to play a spinner, and if so, which one? And, if so, which seamer will give way?

The coastal grounds in South Africa tend to require a spinner more than at altitude, and so the news that Jack Leach was on the mend yesterday was welcome. If Leach, the Somerset left-arm spinner, is not fit or not selected, the management have been dropping strong hints about Dom Bess, who, they feel, has improved after a stint under Rangana Herath's tutelage in Mumbai, and who offers more in the field and with the bat than Matt Parkinson, the Lancashire leg spinner.

If Bess leapfrogs Leach (if fit) and Parkinson, it would ask questions of the communication between selectors and management, and why Parkinson had been picked here and in New Zealand. That said, it is impossible not to have some sympathy for the predicament, given that the state of spin bowling in English cricket is at its lowest ebb, with no signs of an improvement.

Who would make way for whichever spinner plays? On the evidence of Centurion, Jofra Archer and Sam Curran would have to play. Expensive as he was in the second innings, Archer now has three five-wicket hauls in only seven Tests, and Curran was England's best bowler in the underwhelming first-innings' performance and is required to bat at No 8 to prevent the tail being longer than a ship's rat. Stuart Broad or James Anderson it will have to be, a sign that their days of leading the attack abroad are numbered.

As grim as the defeat in Pretoria was, this is one of the weakest South Africa batting line-ups of recent times, made weaker by the broken finger suffered by Aiden Markram and the uncertainty over how to incorporate Temba Bavuma should he be fit to play. England did take 20 wickets, only the second time they have done it abroad outside of Asia since the last time they toured here. All the evidence suggested that they will be well placed to do so again.



James Anderson
Age: 37
Tests: 150
Wickets: 577
Average: 27.04
Strike rate: 56.4

Will they really drop Broad or Anderson?

Pick a spinner

Cape Town conditions will almost certainly require picking a spinner. It's been dry there and the pitch does take turn. If selecting five seamers was justifiable in Centurion, it will not be at Newlands. A spinner will be needed but which one? They have three to choose from.

Jack Leach is technically the man in possession, being the last frontline spinner England used in a Test match but he has been quarantined in his hotel room for more than a week having been sent to hospital with gastroenteritis in New Zealand this month. It is thought unlikely that he will have recovered sufficiently in time for the second Test and even if he does he will not have bowled in almost a month.

His Somerset team-mate Dom Bess was flown over as last-minute cover but seems to have leapfrogged the leg spinner Matt Parkinson as the preferred option. He has recently been on an ECB spin bowling camp working with the former Sri Lanka bowler Rangana Herath and the England management are understood to be impressed with his development, particularly his increased control with the ball.

Parkinson, on the other hand, had a torrid time with the ball in his three red-ball warm-up games for England, taking just two wickets for 235 runs from 52 overs.

He is a fine white-ball bowler but his inclusion in the red-ball side seems some way off — which makes it all the more bizarre that he was included in the squad as the back-up spinner. The inclusion of Bess, a useful batsman, would shorten England's tail. It is at times like these that England miss Moeen Ali and it highlights the paucity of spin options available to the selectors.

Leaving out Anderson or Broad

The inclusion of a spinner means leaving out one of the seam bowlers who played at Centurion and based on performances in the first Test, Sam Curran keeps his place.

Jofra Archer, having had a difficult time in New Zealand, picked up five wickets in the second innings. With Ben Stokes as the all-rounder, that leaves just one spot between the two leading wicket-takers in English Test history — James Anderson and Stuart Broad.

It would be a huge call to leave out a bowler with their experience. They both bowled adequately, given that Broad, 33, was coming back from illness and Anderson, 37, was playing his first match since the start of August.

But if England want to pick the most balanced team that they think can level the series, it may well come down to this. If it were my call, I would keep Anderson in and give Broad a chance to recover fully.

How best to use Archer

Archer is barely eight months into his international career and so much is expected of him but the tour of New Zealand was a sharp reminder that international cricket, particularly overseas tours, can be tough.

He found out the hard way that flat pitches and a Kookaburra ball are often not much fun for a bowler, and questions were raised about his speeds and his effectiveness.

He remains one of England's greatest assets, though, and Joe Root must work out how to use him best and how to manage his character.

The best way to use him is surely in short, sharp bursts of real aggression.

Words by Elizabeth Ammon

'Morgan should replace woeful Root'

Joe Root criticised his bowlers after England's first Test hammering but were they to blame? Or should Root be the one taking responsibility. Our readers have their say . . .

BOWLING

If the bowlers keep bowling bouncers on a wicket on which ALL their batsmen had been out bowled, lbw or caught behind, it can only be one of two things. Either they were under orders from the captain/coach or they're just plain stupid.
Robert Houghton

It has been the batting that has let the side down but this time the bowling was substandard. This week I watched the Australia match against NZ and the English bowling is so far behind the Aussies it's disturbing.
David Harrington

This team is going backwards. The usual suspects will be gunning for Root but a captain is only as good as his team and England bowled poorly. Anderson and Broad are 10kph down on other attacks and toothless on good tracks.
Pastaman

CAPTAINCY

Root cannot cajole his bowlers, and his tactics were woeful. The bowling "plans" were risible. I'd make Burns captain but Silverwood and Root (Yorkshire buddies) will be in place now for a few miserable years.
Ian Batch

Root is a wonderful batsman but I don't think he's a good captain. We'd be better off with Eoin Morgan as skipper and lose either Jonny Bairstow or Jos Buttler. Let's face it, Morgan couldn't be any worse than either of them.
Nigel Turner

It is one of the great mysteries that Root, who has spent the majority of his life doing nothing else except play cricket, has so little instinct for the game.
Stephen Follows

end chaos and confusion

Silverwood's tenure has gone off-piste fast

Simon Wilde Cape Town

Give me a lucky general. And when it comes to cricket, give me a lucky head coach. England's previous head coach, Trevor Bayliss, had the good sense to start work with his team playing at home and within weeks his one-day players had taken off the handbrake, the Test side had regained the Ashes, and no one ever questioned his position again — even though many critics had barely heard of him when he was appointed.

Things have been rather different for Chris Silverwood. His signing came against expectations — Gary Kirsten, a South African, was thought the frontrunner — and, as he was already working with the national side as their fast bowling coach, his promotion was viewed as a little underwhelming.

Bayliss also had with him an assistant in Paul Farbrace. Silverwood has not got that; indeed, in South Africa, he is doubling up as head coach and fast bowling coach while he considers his options over a long-term appointment for the latter role.

Results have gone badly. It is true that his first assignment, a Twenty20 series against New Zealand, was won 3-2 but since then he has lost two out of three Tests, and the defeats in Mount Maunganui and Centurion were scarred by strategic errors. These might be laid at the door of Joe Root, but captain and coach work hand in glove and Silverwood has to share the blame.

England's director of cricket, Ashley Giles, has also seriously restricted Silverwood's room for manoeuvre by endorsing Root as Test captain through to the next Ashes.

It is early days in this series, but it already looks as though South Africa possess the shrewder and steelier leader in Faf du Plessis. Root may have captained in 36 Tests, three more than du Plessis, but du Plessis has also led his country in 79 ODIs and Twenty20s as well as in domestic T20 tournaments in South Africa and the Caribbean. Root has had next to no exposure to professional captaincy outside Tests — and at times it shows.

Silverwood may have been brought in as a continuity coach, but the transition has been far from seamless. The squad for the Twenty20s was an experimental one while for the Tests in New Zealand two frontline fast bowlers, James Anderson and Mark Wood, were deemed unfit for service and Jonny Bairstow, who had kept wicket in 46 of the previous 52 matches, was dropped. Moeen Ali asked to drop out of Test cricket for an indefinite period.

Now, in South Africa, his players have been afflicted by sickness. The chaos this has caused, with three players unavailable for the first Test and several others unable to fully prepare for the match, plus the vice-captain Ben Stokes having to cope with his father's illness, has presented problems of a magnitude that perhaps no previous England head coach has had to deal with.

Keith Fletcher's Ashes team of 1994-95 may dispute that. On the morning of the Adelaide Test they had 11 fit players and Steve Rhodes had to fill the dizzy heights of No 6.

Silverwood is only 85 days into the job, yet he has got through 27 players in eight matches while another three — Dom Bess, Craig Overton and Mark Wood — could also take the field in the next few weeks.

As far as the Test team goes, he believes there are signs of greater solidity at the top of the order. Certainly, Joe Denly at No 3 and Root at No 4 has a better look to it.

In his first press conference as head coach, Silverwood stressed the need for his fast bowlers to aim for the top of off stump, so he must have been apoplectic at some of the lengths bowled in Centurion. Certainly, his summary was drier than the bowling: "We started off planning for the top of off... [then] we went off-piste a bit."

It won't have escaped his attention that his opposite number, Mark Boucher, who was appointed to run the South Africa side only 12 days before the series opened, has got off to the perfect start despite tumult in the boardroom, a string of defeats on the field, and the retirement of Hashim Amla and Dale Steyn.

Boucher, of course, has had the benefit of starting with a home series and a match at one of South Africa's strongest fortresses. It may also be true that South Africa have in their dressing-room more players who do not take a step back in battle than England do in theirs. Lucky man.

● *Simon Wilde is the Cricket Correspondent of* The Sunday Times

Stuart Broad
Age: 33
Tests: 135
Wickets: 476
Average: 28.68
Strike rate: 57.8

25.16
Broad's bowling average in South Africa, he has better figures only when bowling in the UAE (22.85)

66
Broad's wickets in 19 Tests v South Africa. Only against Australia (118 in 32) and India (70 in 20) has he got more

3
But Broad has only three wickets in Cape Town, bowling 75 overs across three innings and conceding 227 runs

England bowlers with most wickets in South Africa
Past 20 years

ECB supports plans to reduce Test matches to four days

CONTINUED FROM BACK

heritage of Test cricket," a spokesman for the ECB told *The Daily Telegraph*. "One of our top priorities is to underpin a healthy future for Test cricket while we continue to build accessible ways for new fans to enjoy our sport. We are strongly behind a thorough and considered consultation where all opinions are explored."

England and Australia enjoy strong support and good attendances for their Tests but are aware of the dwindling crowd sizes elsewhere in the world and the impact that has on revenue.

At present all Tests played as part of the World Test Championship must be five days long but individual boards can decide to host four-day Tests for matches outside the championship if they choose. In 2017, the first four-day Test since 1973 was played between South Africa and Zimbabwe and this year England's Test against Ireland at Lord's was four days with 98 overs instead of 90 bowled in a day.

Some of the motivation behind the proposal is the increasing number of matches which do not go into the fifth day but still incur costs for the host. Most Tests outside England, India and Australia are run at a loss and reducing the costs of staff and security for the fifth day would help to alleviate this. There have been cases of Test series being cancelled because the host nation cannot afford to stage them.

Additionally, moving to four-day Tests would free up about 40 days a year in the international schedule although Fica, the international players' union, says it is concerned that any gaps created would simply be filled with other shorter white-ball tournaments such as the recently suggested 50-over Superseries to be played between England, Australia, India and one other nation.

Although there is support from England and Australia for four-day Tests, there is no guarantee that other countries will agree and there is likely to be strong resistance from some of the players' unions.

Meanwhile, England are continuing to quarantine players and staff in an attempt to halt the flu and sickness bug ravaging the squad in South Africa as Dom Sibley became the 11th player out of the squad of 19 to be affected.

In the wake of the first Test defeat on Sunday, and before yesterday's flight to Cape Town for the second Test, starting on Friday, England's head coach Chris Silverwood explained the precautions in place to protect the healthy players from the ailing members of the group.

"A lot of the guys have been training behind the scenes," Silverwood said. "They've been coming in [to the training ground] when the guys have been on the field. We've kept them separate."

However, Chris Woakes and Jack Leach, who were unavailable for the first Test, are now out of quarantine and Ollie Pope, who also missed the match in Centurion, is recovering well.

Silverwood said that England would retain the two players — Craig Overton and Dom Bess — brought in as cover on December 20.

"We can't use that [the illness] as an excuse for some of the things we could have done better in the Test," Silverwood said. "It almost pulled us together and made us stronger as a unit."

Sport

Another fine mess

It's déjà vu for David Moyes as he returns to West Ham

Page 56

Review of 2019

Matthew Syed on a year when humanity shone

Pages 50-51

New pressure for overhaul of offside law

Martyn Ziegler Chief Sports Reporter

Fifa is considering the most radical change to the offside law for a generation. Discussions are taking place inside the world governing body that could see the law changed so that a player is offside only if there is "clear daylight" between them and the defending player.

If Fifa presses ahead, it would take the proposal to the International FA Board (Ifab) to ask for the system to be trialled and then secure a change to the laws of the game.

The last such change regarding players' positions came in 1990, when Ifab altered the law so that a player was onside if they were level with the last defender — previously they had to be behind the defender.

The "clear daylight" idea would mean a player was onside unless their whole body was in front of the defender with daylight between them — as it stands, an attacker can be judged offside by even their armpit being fractionally in front of the defender.

The arrival of video assistant referees (VARs), along with technology that is making rulings on players being millimetres offside, has prompted the talks to see whether attackers should now be given an extra advantage.

A source close to Fifa said: "This is being discussed internally at Fifa but there is not a final decision yet. It is our duty to keep thinking about the game."

Fifa insiders feel that such a change could redress the balance in favour of attacking players.

The controversy over marginal offside calls by VARs reached a new level in the Premier League over the weekend when five goals were ruled out after players were judged to be fractionally ahead of the defender.

There have been 21 goals ruled out for offside by VARs in the Premier League this season, with six goals awarded after initial wrong decisions, so a negative balance of 15.

As previously reported by *The Times*, Uefa, with support from the British associations on Ifab, is pushing hard for VARs to not make such tight offside calls. It needs Fifa's backing, however, and so far the world body has remained adamant that VARs should be used for all factual decisions however marginal.

Lukas Brud, the secretary of Ifab, said that the protocol made clear that all VAR decisions should be taken only if they were clear and obvious, but that did not preclude marginal offsides.

He said: "It can be marginal if the video evidence clearly shows it.

"We will be communicating to all competitions that are using VAR some updates in the coming weeks, because we are observing some developments that are not particularly the way they should be.

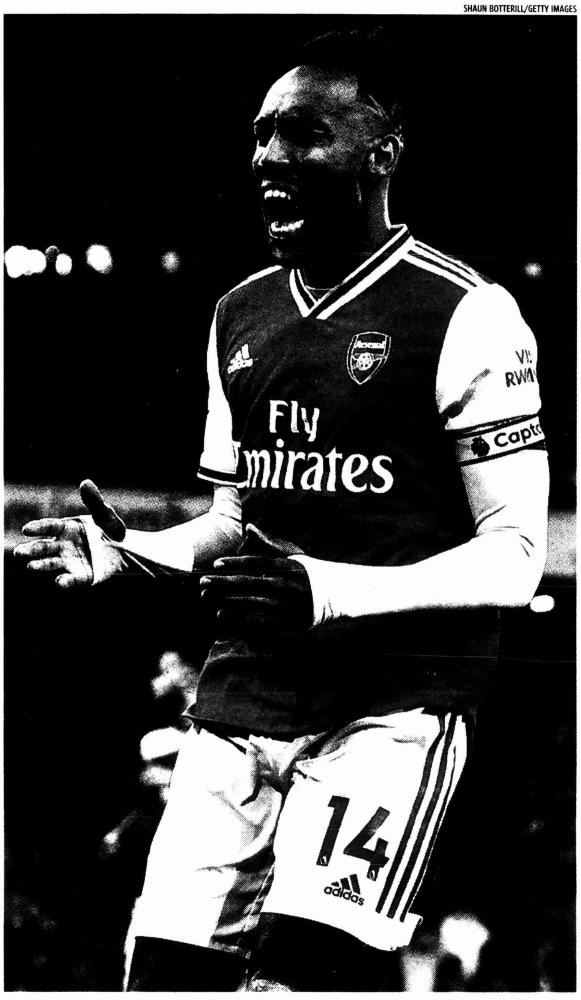
"With VAR we see some things that are going in a direction that we may need to readjust."

One of Uefa's ideas is that the VAR protocol should be changed so that thicker lines are used when they are drawn by the Hawk-Eye operative to decide on offsides, with a clear gap between those lines.

So far, Fifa has not supported that suggestion, saying it would be wrong to

Continued on page 54

SHAUN BOTTERILL/GETTY IMAGES



Aubameyang wants out of Arsenal

Striker tells club he wants to play for a team who can win trophies, page 57

Scudamore's £10m farewell

Martyn Ziegler

Richard Scudamore's final year as executive chairman of the Premier League brought him about £10 million.

The Premier League's accounts show that Scudamore, who left the Premier League a year ago, earned millions in bonuses for securing TV deals as well as his controversial £5 million exit payoff, plus £500,000 in salary for August to December 2018.

The money is being paid to Scudamore over three years — the accounts show that for the year ending July 31, 2019 he received his salary plus £2 million of the £5 million, £1.6 million of the TV bonus for the 2019-22 rights and £1.5 million for the 2016-19 rights.

The remaining money for bonuses and the payoff will be paid to him over the next two years and if the previous bonus system is followed it will result

Continued on page 53

England back four-day Tests

Elizabeth Ammon

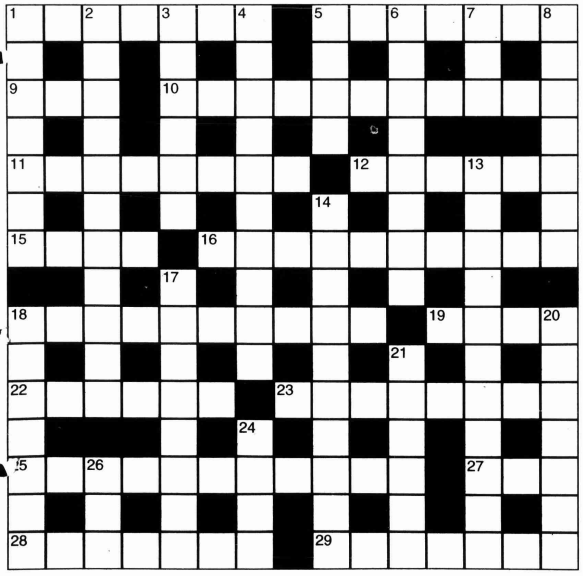
All Test matches could be reduced to four days from 2023, with the England and Wales Cricket Board last night backing plans to scrap five-day games to ease pressure on the crowded international schedule.

The ICC's cricket committee will meet early in the new year to discuss future schedules beyond 2023 and there is already support from two of the most powerful boards — the ECB and Cricket Australia — to reduce the length of Tests, although they will be aware of the potential backlash from traditionalists.

"We are definite proponents of the four-day Test concept, but cautiously so, as we understand it's an emotive topic for players, fans and others who have concerns about challenging the

Continued on page 59

Times Crossword 27,548



ACROSS

1 Mum's vehicle key — item found in handbag? (7)
5 Rest a load and lean back (3,4)
9 Very dark stream (3)
10 Matter ending on lap in spill — absorbed with this? (6,5)
11 Fitting uniform, it's in black (8)
12 Possible sandwich filling for each container of sandwiches, say? (6)
15 Stuff served with culture hasn't hurt, a relaxing discipline (4)
16 Skater requiring ploy to tamper with scoring method, of course? (6,4)
18 Two bullets, one killing pest? (4,6)
19 Distinguish why, occasionally, North Korea's leaders looking to the West (4)
22 Order drinks regularly, tasteless stuff (6)
23 New ideas about horse almost conflict (8)
25 Settler: mark a series about one (11)
27 Old biker in government department (3)
28 Fat and happy, in summary (5-2)
29 Share hotel in state where one's lost? (7)

DOWN

1 Glorious thing seeing kid in tree (7)
2 Nothing supporting meeting, one's very much exposed to criticism (7,4)
3 In departing, train say skidding off the rails (6)
4 Quite obtuse, all jerks on telly, ultimately (10)
5 Attempt to sell bathroom equipment (4)
6 Runner turned on a father protecting wife after time (3,5)
7 Ram position from below (3)
8 Paint light under socket (7)
13 As nurses run, going this way and that? (11)
14 European film about cool stuff mostly, one likely to be controversial (10)
17 Crooked spire, and twisted (8)
18 Cocktail Mark consumes something fishy (7)
20 Coax husband at last into circle with relative at the end (7)
21 Snare hasn't closed — you can say that again! (6)
24 A politician supporting Conservative Party (4)
26 Newcastle United nothing like entirely ready for Bucharest? (3)

Yesterday's solution 27,547

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M	I	N	O	R		E	N	T	R	E	A	T		

Check today's answers by ringing 0905 757 0141 by midnight. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke 0333 202 3390.

The winners of Prize Crossword No 27,540 are
John Bennett, Havant;
Stuart Cray, Bristol;
Peter Field, Stockbridge;
AM Bayfield, London NW11;
Ian Rae, Redditch

Buying The Times: Austria €4.80; **Belgium** €4.50; **Cyprus** €4.50; **North Cyprus** TL35; **Denmark** DKK33; **France** €4.50; **Gibraltar** £2.70; **Greece** €4.50; **Italy** €4.50; **Luxembourg** €4.50; **Malta** €4.50; **Netherlands** €4.50; **Portugal** €4.50; **Spain** €4.50; **Switzerland** CHF7.80

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TIMES

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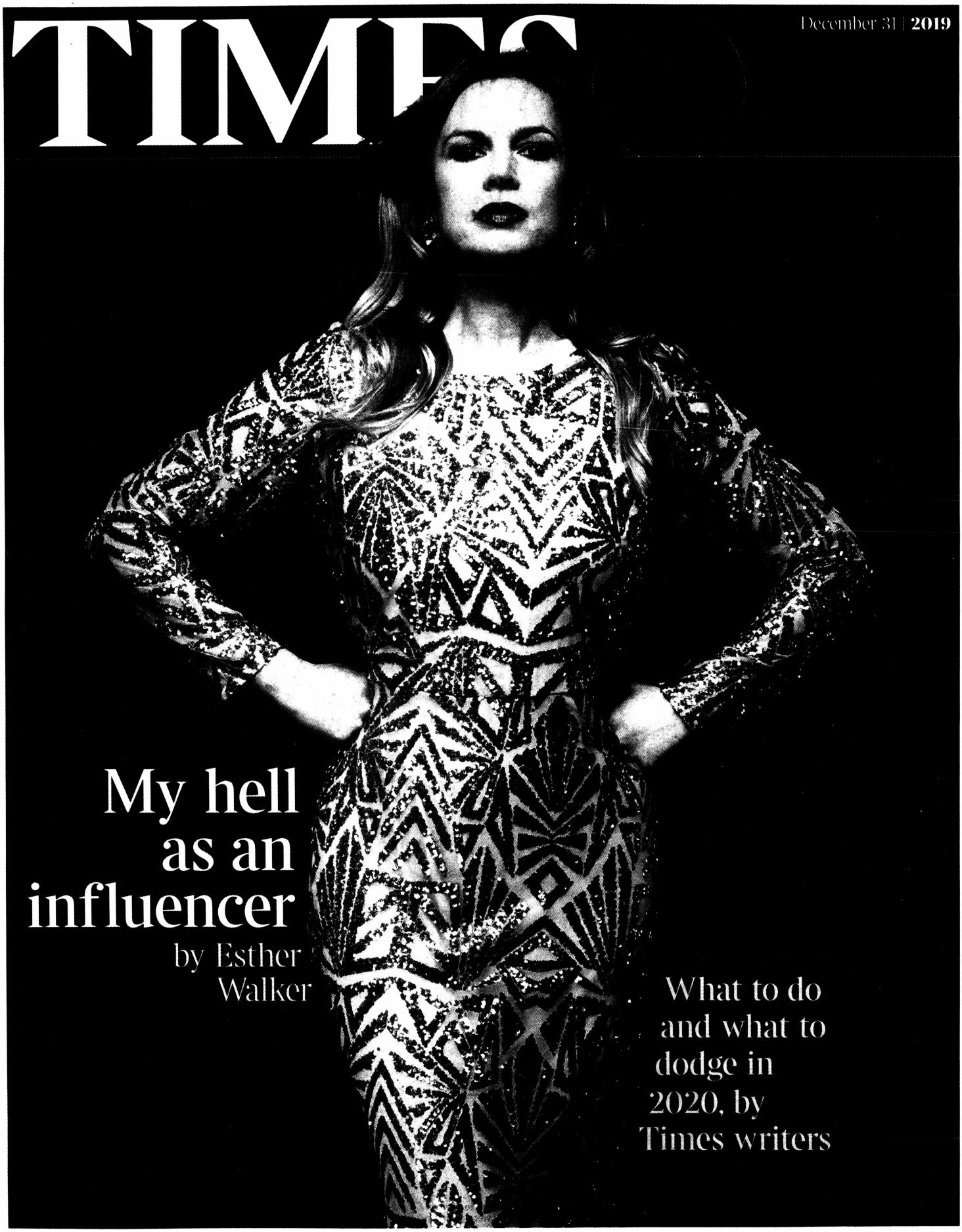


My hell as an influencer

by Esther Walker

What to do and what to dodge in 2020, by Times writers

Thinking about trying something new next year? Read this first

Want to throw yourself into a new experience, but concerned it will end in disaster? Five of our writers may have got there first, from quitting booze to marrying in a far-flung paradise and chasing Instagram fame

DON'T
become an influencer
Esther Walker on the perils of Instagram 'success'

It was when I found myself unable to get out of my car because I was crying so much that I thought perhaps life as an influencer wasn't really working out.

I had been dabbling in online work for a while, making money from linking from my Instagram account or my website to products I liked (the brand paid me if I made a sale). But to make a living from online work — to go pro — you need to get adverts and campaigns.

A campaign, in influencer terms, means producing "deliverables", usually a static Instagram post, some story "tiles" and then a blogpost or YouTube video. For that I was paid about three times the fee for writing a feature in a magazine. It is worth

> **"It messed with my head and drained me of all perspective**

doing, financially. But the emotional cost, for me, was catastrophic.

Hence the crying in the car. My newest campaign — probably my fourth — was not going well. It was for Gwyneth Paltrow's lifestyle/health/fitness behemoth Goop. Americans do not mess about and I felt under pressure to be fabulous.

Campaign contracts are always pages and pages long with many stipulations about buzzwords, competitors you can't mention, what to post and when. Your photographs and content must be signed off before posting. After posting, there comes the glut of direct messages to reply to and then the dreaded data capture, with brands wanting to know how many people liked your post, viewed your stories and swiped up to the brand's page. The teams provide you with trackable links to use so that they know exactly how much you sold of what.

Anyone who likes my Instagram account (@onthespike, 16,900 followers) usually likes it because I am the opposite of the glossy Instagrammer. My photos are spontaneous and terrible, my stories are childish visual gags. In social media terms I "convert" well, (meaning that if I recommend a product, it will sell — in some cases sell out). But campaign contracts killed my spontaneity and humour stone dead. How can you be funny or "real" when everything has to be signed off in advance by four marketing executives and posted at These. Times. Precisely? Can you manufacture spontaneity? Should you?

Then there were the hours and hours that I had to spend on Instagram, which you can only use properly through a smartphone or tablet. My God, it messed with my head. Too much Instagram drained me of all sense and perspective. I endlessly compared myself with other, more splendid Instagram accounts and became chewed up that I was not more popular or successful, while also being endlessly conflicted about selling my Instagram for cash. Don't get me started on the trolls. It was pathetic; I was a mess.

Which brings me back to that day in the car. I was told to access the details of the campaign deliverables for Goop through an online interface used for managing influencer campaigns. My Goop handler was in Texas and I was in north London. I had to submit copy and photos to my handler for approval, and the interface was unfamiliar and bent my already fragile little mind.

Before the school run I had posted a photo of some Goop products and it received 79 likes (when usually I can expect a rock-bottom minimum of 150). My stomach dropped. What would the Goop handler say? Gwyneth was going to be furious.

Worse, my glamorous Instapeer Erna (@mercer7official) was on the same campaign, and Erna takes beautiful photos and is just better at all of this than I am. The comparison was just laughable.

I was a failure — at everything. A rubbish journalist, a hopeless wannabe Instagrammer, a neglectful mother (probably) and a crappy photographer with a weird nose and a wonky face and fat hands!

I got out of the car eventually. I finished the Goop campaign and it was fine, I got paid. But Goop didn't ask me to do another one.

I delivered, half-heartedly, a few more campaigns, then around February this year I officially gave up trying to be a pro Instagrammer and went back to dabbling.

I can 100 per cent recommend it. It's brilliant.

DO
give up alcohol
Robert Crampton on the year that he stopped drinking

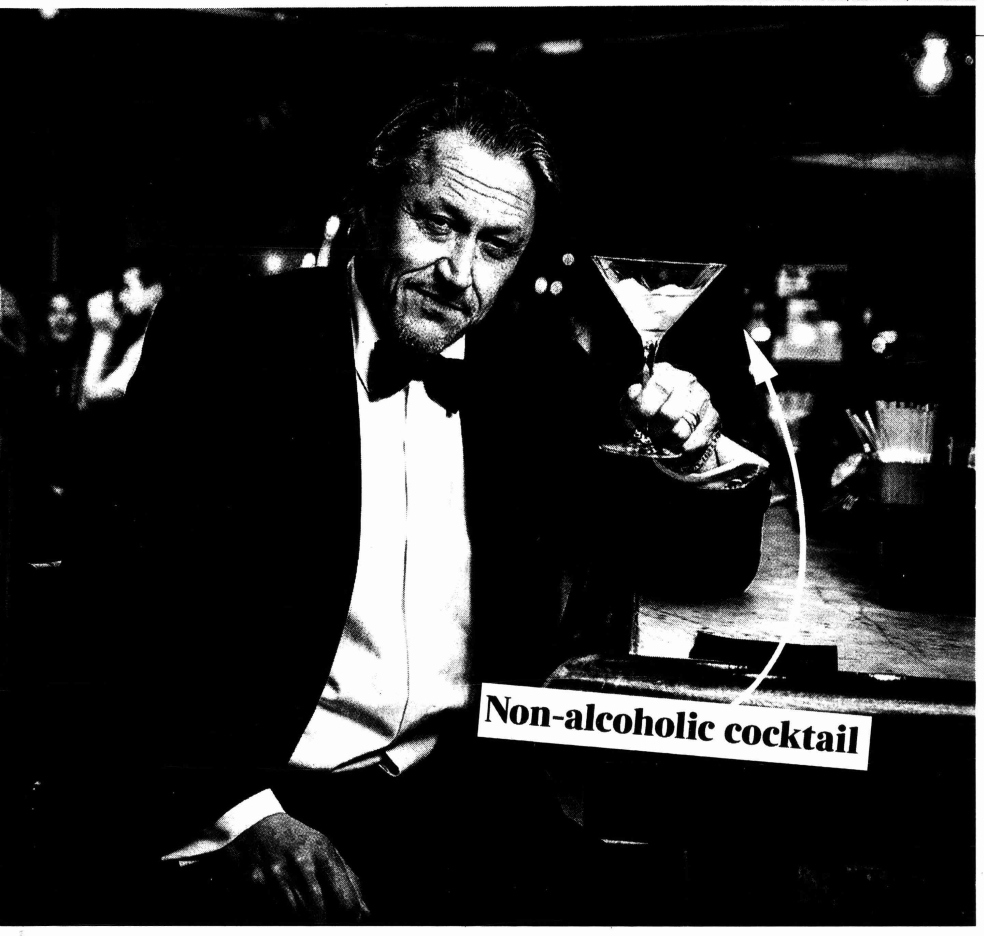
Of all the challenges I've faced these past six months off the sauce, tonight's ranks as comparatively easy. Not that I'll be taking anything for granted. One day at a time and so forth. And yet, although I don't wish to dampen anyone's expectations, New Year's Eve has generally registered as an anti-climax in my experience.

Not always, of course: we had a good one last year when friends in Hereford put on a murder mystery event. My character was a Welsh vicar. A teetotal Welsh vicar. And way back in 1980, aged 16, crikey, that was a great one, possibly the best ever. Fond memories…

But on balance I reckon I'll not get so carried away with Hogmanay excess as to yield to temptation.

Other landmark events since early July, when I abruptly gave up alcohol, have been rather less easy to negotiate. At my department's Christmas dinner in early December I upped and left at 10pm, the first to depart, when usually I'd pride myself on being the last, pouring myself into a cab in the small hours, forgetting the next morning precisely how and when I got home. No disrespect to any of my colleagues, I just felt myself close to having

COVER: SARAH CRESSWELL FOR THE TIMES; BELOW: KI PRICE; SARAH CRESSWELL



a wobble. Having compensated by eating not only my own, but also my neighbours' starters and half of their mains as well, I cut my losses.

The proximate problem that night was that the restaurant didn't do any alcohol-free beer, a beverage that has made remarkable improvements in recent years, sufficient for you to stay on it all night without feeling too bereft. As for Diet Coke, however, much as I like it, there's only so much you can drink. When you're sober and most other people are entering the first stages of tipsiness, 10pm is the optimum time to make your excuses.

A couple of months before that, on my annual walking weekend with old friends, I admit to white-knuckling it a couple of times during what has traditionally been an extremely liquid 48 hours and indeed still is for some participants. Although three of the eight of us are on the wagon. Which is rather the way of it when your average age used to be 28 and is now 55. As Vinnie Jones remarked to me in a recent interview, "drinking is a young man's sport". Wise words.

Still, rather to my and my pals' surprise, I passed the test.

As I have done successfully on four visits to France, where I have a holiday home dangerously close to Bordeaux. You might say, "*Zut alors*, if you can stay dry in claret country, you've cracked it," but, funnily enough, I've found maintaining sobriety on serial sojourns in southwest France remarkably easy. Why? First, because like anything, boozing is closely connected to habit and context, and I have no particular history of absurd alcohol consumption in Lot-et-Garonne. Drinking, yes, back in the day (I've been going there since I was a student), but nothing daft. I was never much of a drinker in my twenties, nor my thirties, nor my early forties, when the kids were still small. It just crept up on me in the last decade and up and up.

Second, I'm always in France with my wife and generally with my children too, and I've long been in a routine (established well before I gave up totally) of not drinking when they are around. Third, although I now sometimes do some work there, that house is not associated with my job, but rather with family and friends and leisure and a wholesome outdoor existence.

Heavy drinking for me was never about relaxation with my family.

> **"I wasn't drinking a bit too much — I was drinking absurdly**

My driest days at home in London have always been Saturdays and Sundays, with Friday evenings not far behind. In an inversion of the received wisdom, I drank the most Monday to Thursday, on school nights.

When people ask me if I'd had the desire to drink, I reply by saying that you get a bit of a pang around the cocktail hour, 7-8pm, after work, and once you get through that it's fine. Yet the truth is the danger time for me was when my family were away.

What prompted the bender that brought about my decision to knock the booze on the head in the summer was my wife and children being nicely squared away down in France, so your thirsty columnist was home alone for a week or more. Make mine a large one! Happy days!

Except not happy days. Not at all. Very unhappy days in fact. Long story short, I overdid it, things got a bit messy and a friend happened to mention it to my wife. My wife, on her return, set about restoring me to the path of righteousness.

On which path I have stayed since.

More or less. Give or take. One or two, or at most three, deviations aside.

These relapses, true to the established pattern, have come when my family have been away and I imagined I was secure enough to reward myself. Not as much as previously (my tolerance, having been remarkably high, had plummeted), but enough for my wife to notice and get upset, and for me to redouble my efforts.

Friends ask me — in the hope of an answer that will excuse their continuing consumption — whether I feel better for giving up. "Of course I do," I tell them, "but what you have to understand is I wasn't just drinking a bit too much [like many of us do] or drinking heavily [like many of us do too], I was drinking absurdly. Self-destructively. Unsustainably. So giving up has made a huge difference to my health, weight, sleep patterns, eating habits, appearance, intellectual clarity, peace of mind, ability to empathise; pretty much everything."

The demon drink indeed. But as I say, I was knocking back a diabolical quantity of the stuff. Enough to last a lifetime, I hope.

Happy new year.

DO Rainbow Rhythms

Anna Murphy tried a 'dynamic movement' class, just like the one in Peep Show

At the heart of my relationship with my godson Joseph lies our mutual love of *Peep Show*. At the heart of that lies an early episode called *Dance Class* in which our hapless non-heroes attend something called Rainbow Rhythms. It's a hilarious hippy dance-off, all tie-dye and out-there self-expression, during which the participants gyrate through different emotional states. Sober. In broad daylight.

If you also watched *Peep Show* — and if you didn't, you should; it's genius — you will know how well that goes down with the repressed Mark. "Now we move into the colour of red, the colour of primal urges," the group leader says. "I'm not really here," says Mark, dressed in office attire, shuffling agonisingly from side to side. "It's research. I'm Louis Theroux. I'm Louis Theroux." It's all so ridiculous as to be obviously invented.

Cut to 15 years later and I am walking near my flat and see a poster for "5Rhythms". Rainbow Rhythms! Turns out it's not made up: it's American. This is, and I quote the website, "a dynamic movement practice — a practice of being in your body — that ignites creativity, connection, and community". The rhythms are "Flowing Staccato Chaos Lyrical Stillness", and the idea is that a sequence of contrasting tracks prompts you to dance out a range of feelings so that the bad stuff doesn't fester and the good stuff flowers.

So of course I have to go, if only to report back to Joseph.

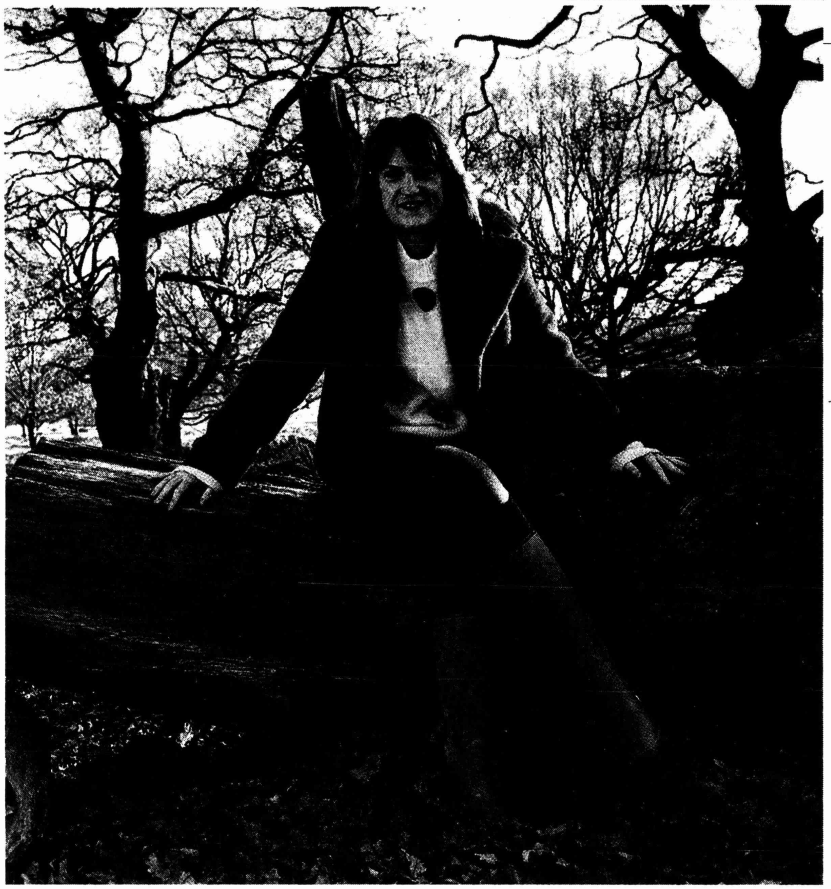
"I'm Louis Theroux," I tell myself when I arrive to encounter more Thai fishermen's trousers in one room than I imagined possible, and people doing alarming warm-up routines. I feel better when the dancing starts, and better still when — don't judge me — I see an actual Mark, sidestepping at the corner of the room. I can't be worse than him.

Yet I still resist, resist, resist. "This is ridiculous," my mind keeps repeating. "What on earth are you doing?" Until it stops, shuts up, and I just let go. Then I begin to feel chemically different, in mind and body; feel things — good and bad — releasing. There's a reason why dance is woven into weekly life in traditional communities across the globe.

The first person I have to tell about my 5Rhythms experience? Joseph, of course. What I haven't told him, until now: I plan to go back. Is 5Rhythms at least as bizarre as its fictional counterpart? Yes. Is it also brilliant? To my amazement, yes.

5rhythms.com

CIRCE HAMILTON FOR THE TIMES (JACKET: LK BENNETT; BOOTS: LE CHAMEAU)



DO
move to the country Sophia Money-Coutts ditched London for a house on the edge of the Norfolk marshes

I don't mean to sound like every journalist who moves to the country and writes a piece about how transformative it was (the quiet… the farm shops… the funny locals). But this year I moved to the country and it was, to begin with, pretty transformative (the quiet… the farm shops… the funny locals). I fell in love with the cosmic wildness of north Norfolk years ago when dispatched there for a few days as part of an "investigative" piece for *Tatler* about Prince William and Kate's pals, the so-called turnip toffs. Back then I stayed in a succession of big houses, interviewing their eccentric occupants. This time was quite different.

I rented a dilapidated stone house with turquoise window frames on the edge of the marshes. It came with a Formica kitchen, an avocado bathroom and 900-odd daddy longlegs, but it was cheap and remote, and I knew I could finish my new book there.

When I arrived at the start of September the fig tree in the garden was fat with fruit, which I picked for my breakfast. Afterwards I'd sit behind my laptop for several hours before heading to the beach, strolling along a wooden boardwalk to the tropical sand dunes of Holkham. Even on bad days, when the rain soaked three layers and the wind made it worse, my scenery was glorious. I'd talk to strangers on the beach about their dogs (many dogs in this part of the world) and stride home again for a forage in the vegetable patch. Perhaps some chard and a potato for my supper.

This was proper living, I'd tell myself, thinking disdainfully of the 94 bus and bagged salad from the Co-op in London W12. I felt more self-sufficient, more relaxed, more unbuttoned. A queue in the local post office didn't make me want to headbutt everyone, as it did in Shepherd's Bush. Life was slower in the sticks and after a year including a break-up and multiple operations, I was grateful for it.

Occasionally in the evening I'd go to the cinema in the nearest town where tickets were £4 and I could sit on an ancient leather sofa at the back, drinking from a smuggled bottle of red wine. I collected kindling on my walks and became an expert fire-maker. I took a mushroom-picking course. I became the sort of person who would say out loud: "Oh look, a curlew!" It was only supposed to be a temporary move for a few months, but I began to tell friends that I was going to stay in Norfolk for ever and made friends with a local estate agent. "I need two bedrooms so my mother can come and stay," I told him. I thought I might get my own dog.

Then the clocks went back and the gloom started descending too early. We don't notice the dark so much in London. Lights blaze from shops and offices; there's life constantly shifting around us. In the country a blackout curtain falls at about 4pm and if you're on your own, in a remote house, there's a long stretch before bed. Could I start going to the pub at teatime? I did, a couple of times, but I wouldn't recommend drinking solo for several hours before stumbling home along a rocky path with only the light of a thumbnail moon and your phone for guidance.

My mood drooped and, as the end of my Norfolk lease approached, I began to dodge the estate agent's calls and returned to London. Move to the country by all means. It's nice out there. But don't even think about it in October or November. Give it a whirl in April.

DON'T
get married in Borneo David Aaronovitch thought he was being practical. It wasn't that simple

The family holiday to Borneo 14 years ago was notable for three things: the wildlife, from leeches to elephants; the fact that I fell into an airport scanning machine; and, finally, my partner and I got married.

My warning to the unwary concerns neither of the first two experiences. With regard to the first, all I'd say is that when your daughter discovers a small leech on her person and lets out a screech so piercing that it quickly frightens the slow loris out of the trees, don't laugh. As for the second, you have to accept that the point of no return on those luggage things comes much earlier than you think and your suitcase is as quickly irretrievable as your dignity.

But what about getting wed? I don't come from a marrying family. By the time I was 25 I had been to precisely no weddings. Had you asked me about marriage back then I'd have predicted the dying out of the institution along with the demise of organised religion. By 2005, however, my partner of 18 years and I were thinking practically. If one of us died, what would happen to the house, our assets, the dog? We decided that it would be obstinacy not to tie the knot.

The next problem was that, not being marrying types, we didn't want any fuss. As it happened, I'd been asked to do a family travel piece on Malaysian Borneo. So my partner researched whether we could be married 7,000 miles away from friends and relations and the fraught business of invitations, speeches and intoxicated relatives.

It seemed we could. And one of the hotels that we would be staying in offered a marriage package, and the staff would organise the whole thing. You got your registration, your marriage ceremony overlooking the sea, a cake, some champagne and then you planted a tree to mark the event. All accomplished with minimum fuss, but fun for us and the children, and it would allow us to return to Britain formally wed.

This is no disaster story. My partner, Sarah, and I pitched up at the Malaysian government office in the town of Kota Kinabalu, filled in lots of forms, mostly designed to assure them that we were not Muslims and therefore covered by Sharia law, and then were pronounced wife and man by the registrar who treated us with an elaborate lack of surprise.

So far, so good. Then it was back to the grounds of the hotel complex to do the fun bit. And I enjoyed it. I was dressed in a lovely bright shirt that my partner declared to be "garish" and that subsequently mysteriously disappeared. She was resplendent in pink. The sun raised a sheen from the South China Sea, a warm breeze hardly troubled the palm trees, and a table was set out with a wedding cake and champagne glasses. A dapper local preacher hired by the hotel turned out to be a Seventh-day Adventist, but he forbore from prophesying Jesus's imminent return to Earth and stuck to congratulating us. We cut the cake, drank the champagne, kissed for the photographer and planted the tree.

Long after the event it turned out that only our youngest daughter and I actually enjoyed all this. I thought it was funny, she liked the theatre of it. My middle daughter openly hated it at the time, but she was 12, and you know what they can be like. My oldest daughter professed to be all right with it, as did my wife. But 14 years on, it transpires that they thought it was tawdry and mildly humiliating. They just didn't want to tell me.

Then, a year ago, we were at a dinner party when a former senior civil servant asked about when we had taken our vows. We told her. "Ah," she said, "you'd better check that. Because I am sorry to say [she smiled broadly] that I'm not at all sure that you are in fact legally married."

We tried to check. Maybe we are, maybe we aren't. Even finding out seems impossible. And what seemed like a really good idea at the time now looks rather less brilliant.

Tonight we're gonna party like it's 2020

Will Hodgkinson's New Year's Eve playlist

GETTY IMAGES

It's a high-stakes game, having a party on New Year's Eve. Will your buddies rent a cottage in the countryside instead of coming to the bash you told them about months ago? Or will gastric flu temporarily wipe out your family? If you do take the plunge, once the invitations are sent, the drinks trolley is stuffed to bursting and the cheesy Wotsits are in the bowl there's the small matter of the music. Here is a playlist to ensure your New Year's Eve party goes with a bang.

Juice **Lizzo**
The pop sensation of 2019 is a booty-shaking, flute-tooting, big bowl of fun and this is her killer track. A celebration of body positivity, sexiness and generally being "the whole damn meal", it has an irresistible disco beat to fuel its lyrical swagger, making it a guaranteed floor-filler. Stick this one on when your guests need an excuse to let loose.

Bad Guy **Billie Eilish**
The music world's hottest teenager, Eilish delivers this sarcastic ode to a self-styled rebel in the vocal equivalent of the adolescent eyeroll, yet the song really belongs to the enthusiastic, jazz-hands-friendly world of musical theatre. If you have a bored teenager in the house, wishing they were anywhere but at their stupid parents' party, *Bad Guy* will ease their pain.

Sympathy for the Devil
The Rolling Stones
There comes a time in every man's life when he feels compelled to do his best Mick Jagger impersonation across the living room floor and nothing suits that dad-dancing moment more than the Stones' satanic samba. It is so deliciously evil, it might even inspire them to say, "To hell with it," and leave the washing up until the morning.

Havana **Camila Cabello**
Let's face it: this New Year's Eve you will most likely be somewhere a bit damp, a bit cold, featuring neither the romance of snow nor the exotica of heat and sun. We can dream, though, and the Cuban-American sensation Cabello's sultry smash is a perfect slice of escapist Latino pop.

I Will Survive **Gloria Gaynor**
After the office party they swore their undying love to you. They promised that this would be the Christmas they finally told their wife/husband. Guess what — they didn't. Nothing captures the zero sum game of an affair like Gloria Gaynor's disco classic. It is one of those rare songs that manages to be profound and escapist, tragic and uplifting, all at once.

Old Town Road Lil Nas X
What a terrible idea, to combine country music with hip-hop. Yet Lil Nas X does it with such verve that it is hard to resist. With a ready-made cowboy dance routine and lyrics about throwing away materialism for the pleasures of the simple life, the 2019 viral hit is an NYE stomper.

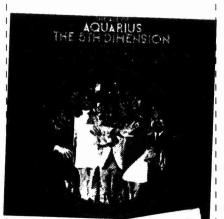
Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In
The 5th Dimension
When you want to slip into a kaftan, smoke the pipe of peace and imagine yourself on a love commune circa 1969 — and who doesn't? — put on this glorious easy-listening psychedelia from the soundtrack to *Hair*. The vocal soul group the 5th Dimension did the best version, a pure groove that is as kaleidoscopic as its optimistic words about the dawn of a new age.

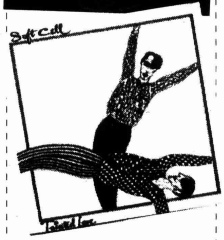
Don't Stop Till You Get Enough
Michael Jackson
Jackson's finest hour. Those horns, that squeezed-testicle falsetto, the choppy guitar, the super-tight bass, words advising an overdose of pleasure... it adds up to disco funk perfection. We have all heard it a thousand times yet it sounds as fresh as the morning dew every time.

Bodak Yellow **Cardi B**
Maybe wait until the kids have gone to bed before you stick on this former stripper's mission statement, following hip-hop's tradition of combining outrageous boasts with a trashing of the competition. A borderline-sinister minimal synth backing makes the whole thing unsettling/compelling. May make banker's wives from Surrey think they are strippers from Harlem.

I Love Rock'n'Roll
Joan Jett and the Blackhearts
Ignore the massacring by the dad blogger Ladbaby in this year's novelty Christmas hit *I Love Sausage Rolls* and go back to this brutal version, which stomps along with attitude that's hard to beat. Fresh out of being brutalised by the Svengali Kim Fowley in the all-girl rock group the Runaways, Joan Jett was ready to show who was boss on her solo outing, originally by glam rockers the Arrows.

Prince, Cardi B and Lil Nas X. Below: the LPs Aquarius by the 5th Dimension and Soft Cell's Tainted Love





Dancing Queen **Abba**
No New Year's Eve party is complete without at least one Abba song and it is hard to think of a more guaranteed floor-filler than this Euro-disco ode to youth and beauty. Like all the best pop, *Dancing Queen* has a touch of melancholy.

I Love It **Icona Pop (feat. Charli XCX)**
The Hertfordshire pop polymath Charli XCX claims to have knocked this out in half an hour and left it off her debut album because she didn't rate it, leading her record label to give it to a Swedish duo in need of a hit. The result is a magical, party-perfect rush of adrenaline.

Rock and Roll
The Velvet Underground
A dancefloor classic all too often left off the dancefloor. In 1970 Lou Reed, fed up with the Velvet Underground's lack of commercial success, made an album of potential hit singles called *Loaded*. It bombed, but among the gems was this simple ode to rock'n'roll, which fizzes with that indefinable zing that makes for a masterpiece.

Raspberry Beret **Prince**
There are more obvious Prince party songs, but there's a touch of sweetness to his sunshine pop hit from 1985 that cannot help but put you in a good mood. The story of a teenage crush, it has the kind of joyful innocence, aligned to a beat that makes it easy to dance to, that could lead to old flames rekindling long dormant romances.

Young Hearts Run Free **Candi Staton**
Another innocent floor-filler, with a soulful delivery from Staton and words about breaking free from a bad relationship that nevertheless sound very romantic. It will help you to feel good about whatever the year brings.

I Feel Love **Donna Summer**
This 1977 masterpiece remains the ultimate machine for dancing. Only the Italian super-producer Giorgio Moroder would think of combining metronomic krautrock with futuristic synthesizer disco, leading to the sexiest slice of nightclub futurism the world has known.

Tainted Love **Soft Cell**
Taking an obscure northern soul song by Gloria Jones, Marc Almond and Dave Ball captured the sleaze and danger of 1980s Soho on this subterranean synth-pop gem. Stick on the 12in version, which morphs into a sultry version of the Supremes' *Where Did Our Love Go*.

Da Funk **Daft Punk**
One of the simplest dance tracks is also one of the best. On their 1995 instrumental Daft Punk tried to capture the hip-hop sound of the time and ended up with a banging slice of house music made of little more than a squelchy bass and a few wobbly synthesizer notes. It still sounds like the future.

The Seeker **The Who**
New Year's Eve is a time for reflection, for new beginnings, new journeys. It is also a time to get off your face and have a great time, so why not combine both with this rocking ode to the spiritual quest? Raw and powerful, it is Pete Townshend at his best.

Heart of Glass **Blondie**
Blondie did disco their way: with style, humour and downtown New York cool. This had been written years before by Debbie Harry and Chris Stein, but the producer Mike Chapman brought the beat to the fore, turning it into a 1979 smash that is still guaranteed to get the party going.

Don't You Forget About Me
Simple Minds
We all need a closing time anthem to yell along to and nothing captures the sentimental glories of enduring friendship like this 1980s power ballad. It ranks alongside *Auld Lang Syne* as an NYE perennial.

Baby Donnie and Joe Emerson
It's the end of the night, the bottles are empty, the broken glass is swept away and you are wondering what you did with the Berocca. This soulful, pure, high school ballad from 1979 makes for the perfect last dance.
Find the playlist at bit.ly/timesNYE

health

If you are doing Veganuary and want a happy new year, watch out for B12 deficiency

Dr Mark Porter

In a timely warning on the eve of Veganuary, two eminent professors — Tim Key from Oxford and Tom Sanders from King's College London — have highlighted the importance of vitamin B12 supplementation in people who don't consume animal products. The number of vegans in the UK has quadrupled over the past five years to more than 600,000, a number that is likely to grow considerably during the next month as tens of thousands more try the Veganuary challenge. However, it's not just vegans who are at risk: B12 deficiency is common, easily missed and often undertreated in the rest of society too.

The vitamin is essential for the production of red blood cells and normal functioning of the brain and nervous system. Deficiency can cause numerous symptoms (see below) ranging from lack of energy, memory issues, weakness and pins and needles, to breathlessness, confusion and, rarely, even paralysis and death. It can be a hard diagnosis to clinch because it tends to develop slowly over a few years, and the signs may not show up in routine blood tests (which don't check levels of the vitamin unless specifically requested).

Anyone can develop B12 deficiency at any age, but the older you are, the more likely you are to suffer. Estimates vary, but at least 1 in 50 of the UK population is thought to be deficient, rising to 1 in 10 or more in the elderly. B12 is found naturally in animal products such as meat, fish, milk and eggs, so vegans and vegetarians are at particular risk unless they take supplements. However, it is a hard vitamin to assimilate even if you follow a normal diet because it requires specific conditions for absorption — plenty of stomach acid, the presence of a protein called "intrinsic factor" (IF) and a healthy bowel. And herein lies the problem.

In some people — most commonly in those with autoimmune conditions such as thyroid disease and vitiligo or a family history of B12 deficiency — the protein IF stops working as they get older. In others, widely prescribed medicines, such as the antacid omeprazole or the type 2 diabetes drug metformin, can interfere with absorption. And then there is another group who don't absorb nutrients well because of bowel problems such as coeliac disease (gluten sensitivity).

The trick with B12 deficiency is to consider it in the first place and listen to the patient. We test levels far more often than we used to, not least because it is routinely included when screening people with memory problems, but the blood test is not infallible. Normal ranges can differ from hospital to hospital, and there is still some disagreement about what constitutes optimal levels. Suffice to say that blood results should always be interpreted alongside the signs and symptoms. It is a foolish doctor who dismisses lack of B12 as a cause for fatigue and pins and needles just because a blood test comes back as "low normal" or borderline.

> **The older you are, the more likely you are to suffer**

If you are otherwise healthy and have a normal bowel, oral supplements may be all that is required to prevent deficiency, but they won't help most people who already have depleted stores because they will struggle to absorb the vitamin properly no matter how much they consume. This is why injections form the mainstay of therapy, typically given as a course of 6 over 12 weeks, followed by boosters every two to three months when required (and they often are).

It can be a rewarding condition to treat, particularly in middle-aged and older people who, because of the insidious onset, often put their symptoms down to advancing age. Sometimes you see a response within a week, but in more severe cases recovery can take months. And in an unlucky few, whose deficiency has been prolonged because it has been missed, symptoms such as weakness caused by nerve damage may never fully disappear.

And treatment should go beyond correcting B12 levels. It is important to look for an underlying cause too. Further investigation will depend on the individual, but would generally include asking about diet, blood tests for antibodies to the protein IF, thyroid tests and screening for gluten sensitivity (coeliac). Levels of another key B vitamin (folate) are routinely checked whenever B12 is measured and, if the patient is anaemic, iron levels should be assessed too. Most cases are easily managed by GPs, but some patients will require onward referral to a haematologist or other specialist depending on what the investigations turn up.

Most of the B12 checks I do come back as normal, and because of the vague nature of symptoms there are often myriad other possible causes for someone's symptoms, but you won't find B12 deficiency unless you look for it.

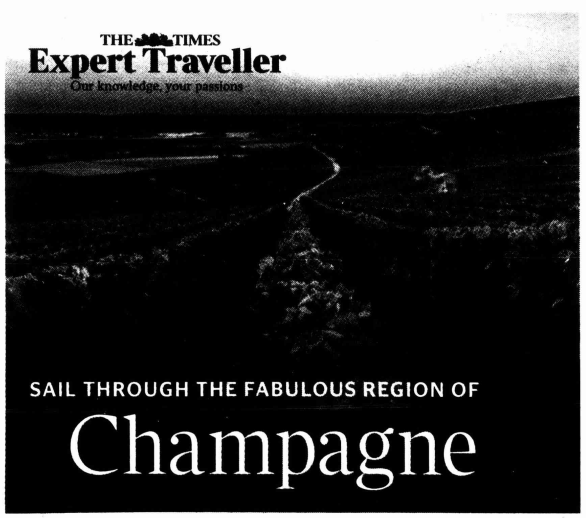
And if you are cutting out animal products from your diet, heed the professors' warning and read the advice about supplementation on the Vegan or Vegetarian Societies websites, vegansociety.com and vegsoc.org.

For the latest guidance on diagnosing and treating B12 deficiency visit Nice at bit.ly/365AyQw.

If you have a health problem, email drmarkporter @thetimes.co.uk

The signs and symptoms of B12 deficiency

- **Anaemia isn't always present, but if it is, people may look pale, notice that they are breathless on exertion or complain of a fast-beating heart (palpitations) or chest pain on exertion.**
- **Because B12 is essential for normal neurological function it can have wide-ranging effects on everything from mental agility to sensation and muscle innervation. Symptoms may include poor memory, mood changes, headache and occasionally confusion that can mimic or aggravate dementia. Peripheral nerve damage can cause altered sensation, often in the hands and feet, and may also lead to unexplained weakness, unsteady gait or a tendency to drop things.**
- **Fatigue, listlessness and lack of energy are common complaints too.**
- **The tongue can sometimes give the diagnosis away. Low levels may lead to inflammation (glossitis) that leaves the tongue feeling sore and looking red and swollen (beefy). Glossitis can also be a sign of folate and iron deficiency.**



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Scholarly search for Sam steers clear of prying

Carol Midgley TV review

Searching for Sam: Adrian Dunbar on Samuel Beckett
BBC Four
★★★★☆

Snow Animals
BBC Four
★★★☆☆

'A small boy, stretching out his hands and looking up at the blue sky, asked his mother how such a thing was possible. F*** off, she said."

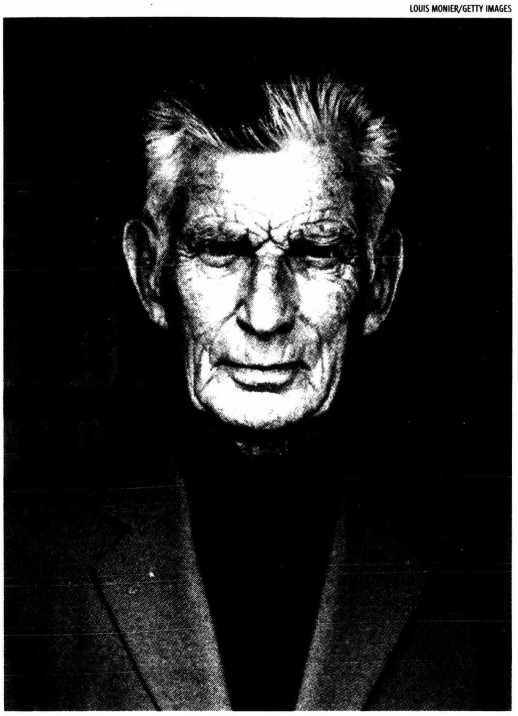
This line from Samuel Beckett's *The End* may be based in truth — the writer has spoken of his mother's "savage loving". Perhaps this difficult relationship helped Beckett to nail the tragicomic absurdity of human existence, win the Nobel prize for literature and become one of the most influential writers of the 20th century.

Adrian Dunbar's **Searching for Sam** was a thoughtful, scholarly exploration of Beckett's mind and life in which Dunbar retraced his fellow Irishman's childhood in Co Fermanagh, then followed him to Paris, where Beckett spent much of his life, some of it assisting his hero James Joyce when his sight was failing in the 1930s.

Dunbar, who plays Ted Hastings in *Line of Duty*, acknowledged that he is best known as a TV actor, but he is also a theatre director and has directed the plays of Beckett, of whom he is a lifelong fan. He listened dreamily to the actor Stephen Rea and James Knowlson, Beckett's biographer and friend, recalling their personal memories of Beckett. Dunbar never met him, but finds him "life-affirming" rather than bleak. It was interesting that Beckett told Rea that he hated *Waiting for Godot*. The playwright did not like adulation so maybe the work's fame was the problem.

We saw where he lived in Paris and the house in Roussillon where he hid from the Nazis with his partner, Suzanne Déchevaux-Dumesnil, after their resistance cell in Paris was betrayed. When that material ran short there were many shots of Dunbar drinking coffee in French cafés. The documentary kept a respectful distance, and while it

LOUIS MONIER/GETTY IMAGES



Samuel Beckett once complained that he was "damned to fame"

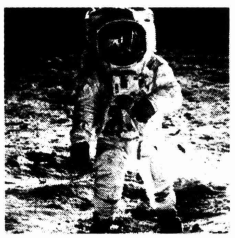
touched on Beckett's casual approach to sexual fidelity, Dunbar said that it felt like prying and retreated. Beckett's quote about being "damned to fame" had, he said, started to ring true.

I don't know why, when we are clinging to radiators and wiping runny noses, TV schedulers think that we need programmes featuring the word "snow". Last night the BBC offered two: *Snow Cats and Me* and Liz Bonnin's **Snow Animals**, which was a sweet cabaret of some of the world's most aesthetically pleasing creatures forced to live in some of the coldest terrain on the planet.

As it zipped between Alaska, China, the Arctic and Japan it had a touch of the "cut and paste" about it, but these animals were so charismatic that it was effectively a procession of Hallmark cards. The Yukon snowshoe hare, for instance: they don't come much cuter than that. Pure white when there's snow and russet brown in autumn and summer as camouflage, it's a miracle in bunny form.

Every cat owner among us shrieked at the screen, "My Tiddles does that!" when the bobcat shook out his back legs in a razzle-dazzle way after getting them wet and when the snow leopard rubbed against rocks and sprayed his territory by shimmying his bottom at them. Not so cute when they do it to your new curtains, though, is it?

Radio Choice
Joe Clay



The Documentary
BBC World Service, 1.30pm

Today's episode of *The Documentary* celebrates some of the unsung heroes of the Nasa space missions. The spacesuits worn by the astronauts of the Apollo mission that landed on the moon in 1969 were made by seamstresses at a company famous for stitching latex into Playtex bras. During the space-shuttle era a group of 18 women carried out vital, life-or-death work, including stitching a fibreglass-baked quartz fabric around the edges of doors, ports and windows with ceramic thread. The astronaut turned presenter Nicole Stott celebrates the contributions of these self-styled "sew sisters".

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Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz
6.30am The Nicki Chapman Breakfast Show **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Craig Charles in the Afternoon **5.00** Joe Lycett **7.00** Tony Blackburn's '60s New Year's Eve **8.30** Ana Matronic's '70s New Year's Eve. Ana brings the New Year's Eve party to listeners '70s style **10.00** Gary Davies' '80s New Year's Eve. On the eve of a new decade, Gary spins 90 minutes of floor-fillers, offering a non-stop '80s party **11.30** Scott Mills' '90s New Year's Eve. The best party tunes the decade had to offer **1.00am** Dave Pearce Dance Anthems **5.00** Grace Dent

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz
6.30am Breakfast
Georgia Mann presents the classical breakfast show, with highlights of the year
9.00 Essential Classics
Suzy Klein presents a tribute to some of the great musicians who died in 2019. Plus, more cultural inspirations from Harriet Walter
12.00 Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)
Donald Macleod explores Tchaikovsky's conflicted relationship with the ascendant Nationalist school of Russian composers. Tchaikovsky (*Chant sans paroles — Souvenir de Hapsal; None but the Lonely Heart*; String Quartet No 1; *The Snow Maiden, First Song of Lel*; Finale — *Allegro con fuoco*, Symphony No 2; and *1812 Overture*) (r)
1.00pm News
1.02 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert
London Bridge Trio play Schumann's Piano Trio in D minor, and the tenor Mark Padmore and the pianist Julius Drake play Mahler's settings of poetry by Friedrich Rückert. Mahler (*Rückert Lieder; Blicke mir nicht in die Lieder, Ich atmet' einen linden Duft; Liebst du um Schönheit; Um Mitternacht*; and *Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen*); and Schumann (Piano Trio No 1 in D, Op 63) (r)
2.00 Afternoon Concert
The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra perform Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* with the Vienna State Opera Chorus Concert Association and the conductor Riccardo Muti, and the violinist Julia Fischer and the Vienna Symphony Orchestra perform Martinu and Brahms under the conductor Andres Orozco-Estrada. Verdi (*Messa da Requiem*); Martinu (Concerto for two string orchestras, piano and timpani); Brahms (Violin Concerto)
5.00 New Generation Artists
Performances by the tenor Alessandro Fisher, the guitarist Thibaut Garcia, and the pianists Ashok Gupta, Mariam Batsashvili and Gary Matthewman
5.45 Words and Music
Brid Brennan and Iain Glen read poetry and prose inspired by happiness, sadness, anger, fear, disgust, surprise and contempt (r)
7.00 BBC Proms 2019
The Staatskapelle Dresden with the conductor Myung-Whun Chung and the pianist Yuja Wang perform works by Rachmaninov and Brahms, from the Royal Albert Hall. Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 3 in D minor); and Brahms (Symphony No 2 in D) (r)
9.00 BBC Proms 2019
The Last Night of the Proms, conducted by Sakari Oramo, featuring the BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Singers and Chorus, plus the mezzo-soprano Jamie Barton. Presented by Petroc Trelawny and Georgia Mann. Daniel Kidane (*Woke* — BBC Commission, world premiere); Falla (*Three Cornered Hat* — Suite No 2); Laura Mvula (*Sing to the Moon*); Maconchy (*Proud Thames*); Elgar (*Sospiri*); Bizet (*Carmen — L'amour est un oiseau rebelle — Habanera*); Saint-Saëns (*Samson and Delilah — Mon cúur s'ouvre à ta voix*); Verdi (*Don Carlos — O don fatale; Aida* — Triumphal March); Offenbach (*Orpheus in the Underworld* — Overture); Grainger (*Marching Song of Democracy*); Arlen (*The Wizard of Oz — Over the Rainbow*); Gershwin (*I Got Rhythm*); Henry Wood (Fantasia on British Sea Songs); Arne arr Sargent (*Rule, Britannia!*); Elgar (*Pomp & Circumstance* March No 1 in D — *Land of Hope and Glory*); Parry orch Elgar (*Jerusalem*); Britten (The National Anthem); and Trad arr Paul Campbell (*Auld Lang Syne*) (r)
12.00 Night Tracks
As the fireworks fizzle out and the strains of *Auld Lang Syne* waft away, the composer, producer and presenter Hannah Peel makes her own exclusive Night Tracks Archive Remix to usher in the New Year
12.30am Through the Night

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz
5.30 News Briefing
5.43 Prayer for the Day
5.45 Farming Today
5.58 Tweet of the Day (r)
6.00 Today
With Sarah Smith and Martha Kearney
9.00 Positive Thinking (2/5)
9.30 Witness
Jerome Paarwater about the former rugby union player Chester Williams
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 Book of the Week: Unreliable Memoirs
Clive James reads from his account of his childhood in Sydney (2/7) (r)
10.00 Woman's Hour
Jane Garvey presents. Including at **10.45** Drama: Part two of *Charlotte and Lillian* by Holly Walsh and Kat Sommers
11.00 Fidget on Four
The health benefits of jiggling and doodling
11.30 There Was a Young Fellow Named Palin
Michael Palin asks the producer James Peak to write him some limericks (r)
12.01pm (LW) Shipping Forecast
12.04 The Secret Commonwealth
By Philip Pullman (7/10)
12.18 Call You and Yours
1.00 The World at One
1.45 Could an Ancient Athenian Fix Britain?
Jon Harvey examines what ancient Athens can teach Britain about democracy (2/5)
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Drama: North by Northamptonshire — Full Stop
By Katherine Jakeways. It is New Year's Eve and the inhabitants are excited to see a professional staging of *My Fair Lady* (r)
3.00 The Kitchen Cabinet
Jay Rayner presents the culinary panel show from Ludlow, Shropshire (1/7) (r)
3.30 Making History
Tom Holland and Iszi Lawrence explore past visions of the future (3/8)
4.00 Soul Music
Stories of love, loss and joy (r)
4.30 Great Lives
The naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace (5/8)
5.00 PM
5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.15 Ghost Stories from Ambridge
Lost Hearts by MR James (2/3)
6.30 The Casebook of Max and Ivan
The private eyes investigate a crime boss
7.00 The Archers
Helen js dressed to impress
7.15 Front Row
Arts programme
7.45 My Life with Flu
By Sarah Woods (2/5) (r)
8.00 A Guide to Disagreeing Better
The importance of respectful debate
8.40 In Touch
News for blind or partially sighted people
9.00 Welcome to the World of George the Poet
A show from the BBC Radio Theatre (r)
10.00 Pick of the Year 2019
Katya Adler and Adam Fleming present highlights from the past year on radio (r)
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Secret Commonwealth (r)
11.00 Loose Ends Lounge
Music from throughout the year
12.01am News and Weather
12.15 Living Memory
The Archers' June Spencer talks about her life. Last in the series (r)
12.30 Book of the Week: Unreliable Memoirs (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only
8.00am The Goon Show **8.30** Round the Horne **9.00** Dead Ringers **9.30** Stilgoe's Around **10.00** Little Dorrit **11.00** Telling Tales **12.00** The Goon Show **12.30pm** Round the Horne **1.00** One, Two, Buckle My Shoe **1.30** When Harry Met Sooty **2.00** Sweet Caress **2.15** The Hidden Henry **2.30** Northanger Abbey **2.45** Schubert's Winter Journey **3.00** Little Dorrit **4.00** Jest a Minute **4.30** Kalangadog Junction **5.00** A Month of June **5.30** The Tim Vine Chat Show **6.00** Doctor Who: Serpent Crest **6.30** Pioneers **7.00** The Goon Show **7.30** Round the Horne. Kenneth Horne sets sail in a seafaring romp **8.00** One, Two, Buckle My Shoe. Poirot investigates the death of his dentist **8.30** When Harry Met Sooty. Jack Dee tells the story of Sooty **9.00** Telling Tales. Some of the interesting books and stories from the year **10.00** Comedy Club: The Tim Vine Chat Show. Comedy chat show **10.30** Armstrong & Miller. Sketch show with Alexander Armstrong and Ben Miller **10.45** Creme de la Crime. Television detective Michael Feydeau ponders the murder of Christopher Marlowe **11.00** Vent. Ben is surrounded by well-meaning people hoping to do everything for him **11.30** Alex Horne Presents the Horne Section New Year. A comical music showcase with the band to begin the new year

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909
6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Your Call **10.00** The Emma Barnett Show **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake. With Chris Hawkins **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport. A round-up of the day's sports news **8.00** The Hurricane Tapes **10.00** Headliners **11.00** Sarah Brett **1.00am** Blood on the Tracks **2.00** Blood on the Tracks **3.00** How Do You Cope? With Elis and John **5.00** Fit & Fearless

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz
6.00am The Alan Brazil Sports Breakfast **10.00** Lynsey Hipgrave **1.00pm** Max Rushden and Charlie Baker **4.00** Drive **7.00** 2019: Your Verdict **9.00** Hawksbee and Jacobs Clips of the Year **10.00** Sports Bar **12.00** Extra Time. With Paul Ross **5.00am** Premier League Preview Show

talkRADIO
Digital only
6.00am James Max **10.00** Mike Graham **1.00pm** Jamie East **4.00** Penny Smith **7.00** James Whale Feat Ash. Evening discussion show **10.00** The Late Night Alternative with Iain Lee **2.00am** Darryl Morris

6 Music
Digital only
7.30am Nemone **10.30** Tom Ravenscroft **1.00pm** Martin Freeman: Decades **4.00** Huw Stephens **7.00** Hot Chip New Year's Eve Party **10.00** Craig Charles New Year's Eve Party. Fonk and soul party tunes **1.00am** 6 Music's Jukebox **5.00** Chris Hawkins

Virgin Radio
Digital only
6.00am Sam Pinkham **10.00** Ben Jones **2.00pm** Tim Cocker **6.00** Special **7.00** Suggs Special **10.00** Steve Denyer **1.00am** The Best Music New Year's Day

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz
6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** John Suchet **1.00pm** Catherine Bott **5.00** Nicholas Owen **8.00** David Mellor's Viennese-Up **10.00** Smooth Classics **1.00am** Bob Jones. Music to welcome in the new year

television & radio

Viewing Guide
Chris Bennion

Dame Edna Rules the Waves
BBC One, 9.05pm

Top pick

Hold on to your gladdies, possums, Dame Edna is back — and she's taking no prisoners in this anarchic one-off chat show. On board her superyacht, the *Ocean Widow*, bobbing about the Sargasso Sea as she avoids the taxman, the queen of the single entendre presides over an hour of such giddy silliness it makes *Vic & Bob's Big Night Out* look like *Late Review*. Resplendent in shocking pink and a fresh purple rinse, Dame Edna introduces us to her new sidekick, Mabel McWhirter (yes, she has killed off Madge Allsop), before welcoming a series of guests who don't know what to be more bemused by: Dame Edna's impertinent questions or the semi-scripted lines they have been asked to parrot. Dame Edna makes mincemeat of them all. Sharon Osbourne is taken to task over her cosmetic surgeries; Judge Rinder manages to offend the county of Norfolk while revealing which criminals are the most lucrative to represent in court; and Emily Atack, last year's *I'm a Celebrity* runner-up, is quizzed about her time in the bush (sorry, it's catching). Meanwhile, Rick Stein, Anita Rani and Joe Sugg make bizarre cameos, yet none is as bizarre as the *EastEnders* actor Rudolph Walker, who strides on dressed as the ship's captain before performing his 1975 hit *Reggae Woman* in front of a disco-dancing Dame Edna. It's all a bit of a throwback, but that only helps to make it all the more entertaining.

Oliver Twist
Drama, 2.20pm

Before she was the BBC's resident Agatha Christie renovator Sarah Phelps adapted other authors' work too. In 2007 it was Dickens for this festive *Oliver Twist* starring William Miller as the cheeky wee orphan. The rest of the cast is star-studded: Timothy Spall as Fagin, Julian Rhind-Tutt as Monks, Sophie Okonedo as Nancy, Tom Hardy as a mumbling Bill Sikes and Sarah Lancashire as Mrs Corney. Nicola Walker, Rob Brydon, Edward Tudor-Pole, Michelle Gomez, Vincent Franklin, Edward Fox and Morven Christie appear too. Blimey. Think of the wage bill.

Early

BBC One

6.00am Breakfast **9.00** Revolting Rhymes. (1/2) Three animations based on poems from Roald Dahl's children's book (r) (AD) **9.30 FILM: Chicken Run (U, 2000)** Animated comedy with the voices of Mel Gibson and Julia Sawalha (AD) **10.50** Shaun the Sheep: The Farmer's Llamas. Shaun causes mayhem at a country fair (r) (AD) **11.20 FILM: The Railway Children (U, 1970)** Three Edwardian children are forced to move from London to rural Yorkshire after their father is wrongfully imprisoned. Period family drama starring Jenny Agutter and Bernard Cribbins **1.05pm** BBC News **1.20** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.30 FILM: Paddington 2 (PG, 2017)** The lovable bear's search for the perfect birthday present for his aunt leads to being framed as a thief. Comedy adventure starring Hugh Bonneville (AD) **3.10 FILM: Shrek the Third (U, 2007)** The bad-tempered ogre must persuade a rebellious teenager to face up to his responsibilities as heir to the throne. Animated sequel with the voice of Mike Myers (AD) **4.35** Gangsta Granny. Family comedy starring Julia McKenzie (r) (AD) **5.45** Pointless. Quiz hosted by Alexander Armstrong (r) **6.30** BBC News **6.50** BBC Regional News; Weather

BBC Two

6.55am This Farming Life (r) **7.55** The Great British Sewing Bee (r) (AD) **9.55** Wild Tales from the Village (r) (AD) **10.55** Gregory Peck: Talking Pictures (r) **11.30 FILM: The Big Country (PG, 1958)** A naive sea captain tries to avoid taking sides in a raging conflict between his future father-in-law and a hillbilly family. Western starring Gregory Peck and Jean Simmons **2.10pm** War Films: Talking Pictures. Sylvia Syms revisits the great British war films released in the immediate wake of the Second World War (r) **2.55 FILM: The Heroes of Telemark (PG, 1965)** Norwegian resistance fighters launch a campaign of sabotage to stop occupying Nazi forces developing an atomic bomb. Second World War thriller with Kirk Douglas and Richard Harris **5.00** Australia: Earth's Magical Kingdom. An exploration of the country's mesmerising wildlife and how creatures have adapted to survive in the human environment. Narrated by Barry Humphries. Last in the series (r) (AD) **6.00** Hippos: Africa's River Giants. David Attenborough reveals the life of the hippopotamus as never seen before. The programme gets closer than ever to an animal that cannot swim yet is utterly dependent on water (r) (AD)

ITV

6.00am Good Morning Britain **8.30** Lorraine **9.25** Judge Rinder (r) **10.25** Midsomer Murders. When a family glassware business collapses following the death of one of its partners, Barnaby investigates allegations of financial irregularities — and a string of murders (r) (AD) **12.25pm** ITV News; Weather **12.45 FILM: The Queen (12, 2006)** Fact-based drama about how the royal family and Tony Blair dealt with the aftermath of the death of Princess Diana. Starring Helen Mirren and Michael Sheen (AD) **2.45** Tenable. Five postal workers from Morecambe answer questions about top 10 lists, then try to score a perfect 10 in the final round (r) **3.50** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Ben Shephard presents a star-studded edition of the quiz, in which Alan Davies, Sally Phillips and Dr Ranj Singh answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine (r) **4.55** The Chase Celebrity Special. Suzi Perry, Mark Porter, Rosemarie Ford and Louis Walsh answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to secure a cash prize for charity. Presented by Bradley Walsh (r) **6.00** In for a Penny. Stephen Mulhern sets challenges to members of the public in Newcastle (r) (AD) **6.25** ITV News; Weather **6.40** Regional News; Weather

Channel 4

6.05am FILM: The Four Musketeers (PG, 1974) The swashbuckling heroes must quell an uprising against the king. Swashbuckling adventure sequel starring Oliver Reed (AD) **8.00 FILM: Swiss Family Robinson (U, 1960)** An 18th-century family is shipwrecked on an island off the coast of Papua New Guinea. Disney adventure starring John Mills **10.25 FILM: Anna and the King (12, 1999)** A widowed schoolteacher from Victorian England tutors the King of Siam's 58 children and develops a platonic love for her employer. Drama with Jodie Foster **1.20pm FILM: Ever After: A Cinderella Story (PG, 1998)** A girl ruled by her stepmother's iron fist is given a glimmer of hope when she catches the eye of a handsome prince. Romantic drama starring Drew Barrymore and Dougray Scott (AD) **3.40** Christmas Sales: Supershoppers Special. Advice on getting the best deals in seasonal sales (r) (AD) **4.45** Channel 4 News **4.55 FILM: Robots (U, 2005)** A robot inventor heads for the city to make his fortune, where he battles the machinations of big business. Animated adventure with the voice of Ewan McGregor **6.30** Hollyoaks. Peri and Romeo help Tom with a potential love interest (r) (AD)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.10** Access (r) **9.25** Friends (r) **10.25 FILM: Pan (PG, 2015)** An orphan is transported to a magical land and goes in search of the truth about his mother. Fantasy adventure prequel to *Peter Pan* starring Levi Miller and Hugh Jackman **12.40pm FILM: Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit (PG, 1993)** A singer who once posed as a nun joins the order again to help save a Catholic school by making a success of its choir. Comedy sequel starring Whoopi Goldberg and Maggie Smith **2.50 FILM: Mamma Mia! (PG, 2008)** A bride asks three of her mother's old flames to her wedding to learn which of them is her father. Musical comedy featuring Abba songs starring Meryl Streep and Pierce Brosnan **5.00 FILM: Calendar Girls (12, 2003)** When her husband dies of leukaemia, a Women's Institute member is inspired to raise funds for the local hospital. Casting inhibitions and clothes aside, the widow and her daring friend encourage their fellow members to pose nude for a charity calendar, causing a stir in their Yorkshire village and beyond. Nigel Cole's fact-based comedy drama starring Helen Mirren, Julie Walters, Annette Crosbie, Celia Imrie and Penelope Wilton

2010-2019: the decade that changed TV

7PM

7.00 Celebrity Mastermind With Paul Chuckle, Amanda Henderson, Geoff Norcott and Levi Roots (4/10)

7.30 EastEnders As the New Year's Eve festivities continue, Linda's drinking spirals out of control (AD)

7.00 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing Paul and Bob fish for grayling. Last in the series (r) (AD)

7.30 Christmas University Challenge Teams of famous graduates from Warwick University and Imperial College London compete (7/10)

7.00 Emmerdale While Victoria goes into labour, most of the locals enjoy the New Year celebrations (AD)

7.30 Coronation Street Steve tries to get out of taking Tracy to a gig, but that plan soon backfires (AD)

7.00 Amazing Spaces: Northern Lights Adventure George Clarke explores architectural gems in Finland, including a lodge on the edge of a frozen lake, a group of tree houses, a caravan on skis and a mini city of igloos (r) (AD)

7.00 World's Strongest Man 2019 James Richardson, Eddie Hall and Michelle Ackerley present action from the fifth and concluding heat of the showpiece strongman event, held in Bradenton, Florida (10/11)

8PM

8.05 Holby City Serena finds her principles tested when she encounters the dealer who supplied drugs to her dead daughter, and is forced to make a life or death decision. Chloe finally feels ready to move forward in her life (AD)

8.00 Julie Walters: A Life on Screen The actress chats about her career, from her beginnings in theatre through to her successes in television and film. With contributions by Victoria Wood, Celia Imrie and Hugh Bonneville (r)

8.00 Spectre (12, 2015) James Bond goes rogue after receiving a cryptic message that sets him on the trail of a secretive criminal network. While his colleagues face a new threat closer to home, Bond embarks on a globetrotting journey in search of the elusive mastermind behind the syndicate — whom he discovers may have links to his own past and had involvement in previous events during some of Bond's most dangerous missions. Spy thriller starring Daniel Craig, Christoph Waltz, Lea Seydoux and Ben Whishaw (AD) *See Viewing Guide*

8.00 Escape to the Chateau at Christmas After another busy year, Dick Strawbridge and Angel Adoree prepare for the festive season at Château de la Motte-Husson. Last in the series (r) (AD)

8.00 Jane & Friends: New Year's Eve Special Tony Christie, the Lighthouse Family, Heather Small and Chesney Hawkes help Jane McDonald ring in the New Year, performing classic hits alongside the show's house band (2/4)

9PM

9.05 Dame Edna Rules the Waves Barry Humphries' comic alter ego hosts a New Year special, joined by guests including Sharon Osbourne, Rob Rinder and Emily Atack, with music by Nile Rodgers and Chic. *See Viewing Guide*

9.00 Billy Elliot (15, 2000) A northern youngster is pushed into taking boxing lessons by his macho dad — but secretly enrols in a ballet class instead, where it soon becomes clear he has a real talent for fancy footwork. However, he faces a tough time convincing his father that dance is a worthwhile pursuit. Comedy drama starring Jamie Bell and Julie Walters (AD)

9.00 The Last Leg of the Year Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker present a two-hour New Year's special, taking a look back at the highs and lows of 2019 in the company of a selection of famous guests, including Sue Perkins, Sara Pascoe, Tom Davis and Rosie Jones. Johnny Vegas mans the studio's bar and keeps the drinks flowing, while The Horne Section provide the music. Alex takes on his most daring challenge to date when he trains to become a racing driver, aiming to become the first disabled person in history to complete a high-speed lap in a racing car at Donington Park

9.00 New Year's Eve (12, 2011) Various New Yorkers wrestle with personal and romantic challenges in their lives on the last night of the year, including a record company executive determined to make a fresh start and a dying man who wants to join the traditional Times Square festivities one last time. Comedy drama starring Michelle Pfeiffer, Robert De Niro, Halle Berry, Sarah Jessica Parker and Zac Efron

10PM

10.00 BBC News; followed by National Lottery Update

10.20 The Graham Norton Show: New Year's Eve Show Graham is joined for his special New Year's show by Tom Hanks, Stephen Graham, Motsi Mabuse, Melanie C, Matthew Rhys, Florence Pugh and Anthony Joshua. *See Viewing Guide*

10.45 Mock the Week Christmas Special A look back on the year, plus unseen material and out-takes (13/13) (r)

10.45 ITV News

11PM

11.25 Craig David Rocks Big Ben Live The singer-songwriter performs live in Westminster. *See Viewing Guide* (1/2)

11.55 New Year's Eve Fireworks 2019 London celebrates. *See Viewing Guide*

11.15 Jools' Annual Hootenanny The annual New Year's extravaganza, featuring Stormzy, Stereophonics, Rick Astley, Tom Walker, YolanDa Brown, Melanie, La Roux, Eddi Reader and Pauline Black. *See Viewing Guide*

11.00 Alan Carr's Celebrity Re-Play 2019 The comedian is joined by six famous faces for a games night as they look back at memorable moments of 2019, with one couple having the chance to win £25,000 for charity (r) (AD)

11.55 Big Ben at Midnight

11.05 Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2019 Jimmy Carr welcomes Dara O Briain, Maya Jama, Asim Chaudhry, Roisin Conaty, Richard Ayoade and Noel Fielding to the panel game (r)

11.20 When Live News Goes Horribly Wrong Moira Stuart narrates memorable mishaps from live news broadcasts, including the President of Estonia walking out of an interview with Dermot Murnaghan (1/3) (r)

Late

12.10am Craig David Rocks Big Ben Live The singer-songwriter's live concert continues **1.00** Kevin Bridges: The Brand New Tour. The comedian gives his take on the modern world (r) **2.00 FILM: Point Break (18, 1991)** Thriller with Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze (AD) **4.05-6.00** BBC News

1.20am-3.25 Best of Glastonbury 2019 Memorable performances from Worthy Farm in Somerset, where artists including Stormzy, George Ezra, Bastille, Sheryl Crow, the Killers, Liam Gallagher, Janet Jackson, the Proclaimers, Kylie Minogue and Miley Cyrus entertained the enthusiastic crowds across three days (r)

12.10am FILM: Uncle Buck (12, 1989) An unreliable but good-natured slob looks after his nephew and nieces. Family comedy starring John Candy (AD) **1.50** Tenable. A team of family members competes (r) **2.40** Take Me Out Emergency Services Special (r) **3.30** Culinary Genius (r) (AD, SL) **4.20-6.00** ITV Nightscreen

1.00am FILM: Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story (12, 2004) The struggling owner of a run-down gym tries to save his business by forming a team for the US dodgeball championships. Comedy with Ben Stiller (AD) **2.35** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) **3.25** Come Dine With Me (r) **5.40-6.10** Extreme Cake Makers (r)

1.50am The 21.co.uk Live Casino Show Interactive gambling **3.50** Autopsy. New series. Experts analyse the events leading up to the death of actress Natalie Wood, who drowned in November 1981 at the age of 43 **4.40** The Last Days of John Belushi **5.30** Access. Showbiz news and gossip (r) **5.35-6.00** House Doctor (r) (SL)

television & radio

The Graham Norton Show
BBC One, 10.20pm

It's that time of the year when the great and the good line up on Graham Norton's sofa to plug whatever film/TV show/album/book they have coming up in January, while pretending it's New Year's Eve. There's Tom Hanks and Matthew Rhys, who will try to convince you to see their film *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, with Florence Pugh (*Little Women*), Stephen Graham (*White House Farm*) and Motsi Mabuse (the endless *Strictly* spin-offs) on similar duties. Anthony Joshua and Melanie C bring some sporting and musical glamour.

Jools' Annual Hootenanny
BBC Two, 11.15pm

If celebs selling their wares on Graham Norton's sofa isn't your thing, join Jools Holland for his annual boogie-woogie with his Rhythm & Blues Orchestra and a coterie of talented musicians. There's an eclectic line-up, including Britain's biggest rapper and Jeremy Corbyn's pal Stormzy, some blasts from the past — Eddi Reader, Rick Astley, Stereophonics, La Roux — and some new faces. For all you flower children there's a rare performance from "the first lady of Woodstock", Melanie. Strap on those brand new skates and roll into 2020 (ooh-arr, ooh-arr).

Craig David Rocks Big Ben/Fireworks
BBC One, 11.25pm/11.55pm

Following in the footsteps of Gary Barlow, Queen, Bryan Adams, Robbie Williams, Nile Rodgers and Madness, the British R&B star Craig David is the latest act to "rock" Big Ben for the BBC (presumably all the female artists were busy). He will be performing a selection of his hits (yes, apparently he has more than one) in front of a live audience in Westminster before we head to the River Thames for the traditional fireworks and flashing lights. Happy new year and a bo' selecta to you all.

Film Spectre
ITV, 8pm

Sam Mendes directs Daniel Craig as 007, who has to contend with a criminal organisation headed by Christoph Waltz's villain, while kowtowing to Andrew Scott's weaselly new security chief. All that a Bond movie should be. (12, 2015)

Sky One

6.00am Futurama (r) (AD) **7.00** Modern Family (r) **8.00** The Dog Whisperer (r) **9.00** The Simpsons (r) **11.00** TV's Greatest Gameshows (r) **1.00pm** Cricket's Funniest Moments (r) **2.00** Rugby's Funniest Moments (r) (AD) **3.00** Premier League's Greatest Moments (r) **5.00** The Simpsons (r) **5.55** Futurama (r) (AD) **6.20** The Simpsons (r) **6.45** Take That: Odyssey Greatest Hits Live. A concert by the pop band at Cardiff's Principality Stadium (r) **8.00** Coldplay: Live in São Paulo. A concert from November 2017 (r) **10.20** Queen: Live at Wembley. A performance from 1986 (r) **11.45** New Year Fireworks Live. The annual display over the River Thames **12.15am** Oasis: Ten Years of Noise and Confusion. The band performs in Glasgow (r) **1.30** Queen: Hungarian Rhapsody — Live in Budapest (r) **3.30** Isle of Wight Festival 2019 (r) **4.30** Road Wars (r) **5.00** Snake Boss (r)

Sky Atlantic

6.00am Attenborough at 90: Behind the Lens (r) (AD) **7.00** Fish Town (r) **8.00** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (r) (AD) **10.00** The West Wing (r) **12.00** Without a Trace **2.00pm** Blue Bloods (r) (AD) **3.00** The West Wing (r) **5.00** Without a Trace (r) **6.00** Without a Trace (r) **7.00** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A bank robbery leads to tragedy (r) **8.00** Blue Bloods. Danny and Baez are caught in the middle of office politics (r) (AD) **9.00** Ray Donovan. Mickey finally learns the truth about the heist (7/10) **10.05** Game of Thrones. After the Battle of Winterfell, the Great War to gain control over the mythical land of Westeros continues as Jon and Daenerys look to the south (r) (AD) **11.35** Game of Thrones. Daenerys brings her forces to King's Landing (r) (AD) **1.05am** Ray Donovan (r) **2.10** Nurse Jackie (r) **2.45** Life Itself: Special (r) **3.00** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (r) **4.00** The West Wing (r)

Sky Witness

6.00am Nothing to Declare (r) (AD) **8.00** Sun, Sea and A&E (r) (AD) **9.00** Air Ambulance ER (r) **2.00pm** Nothing to Declare (r) (AD) **6.00** Nothing to Declare (r) **6.30** Nothing to Declare (r) (AD) **7.00** Nothing to Declare (r) (AD) **7.30** Nothing to Declare (r) **8.00** Criminal Minds. Two members of a Roswell conspiracy group die in quick succession (r) **9.00** Criminal Minds. The agents hold a delusional man in custody for multiple murders. Guest starring Camryn Manheim (r) **10.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. Rollins comes to blows with the parents of a 13-year-old who has ran away **11.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (1/3) A woman is found murdered at a high-society bachelor party. Mariska Hargitay stars (r) **12.00** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Warrick and Catherine hunt for a child-killer (r) **1.00am** 9-1-1 (r) **2.00** Station 19 (r) (AD) **3.00** Sun, Sea and A&E (r) **4.00** Nothing to Declare (r)

Sky Arts

6.00am Hollywood In Vienna: The World of Hans Zimmer **7.55** André Rieu: New Year's Eve Punch **10.05 FILM: Dinner for One (U, 1963)** Comedy starring Freddie Frinton and May Warden (b/w) **10.25** Shania Twain: Still the One — Live in Las Vegas **12.25pm** Sinatra and Friends **1.25 FILM: Dinner for One (U, 1963)** Comedy starring Freddie Frinton and May Warden (b/w) **1.45** Take That: Odyssey Greatest Hits Live (r) **3.00** Queen: Hungarian Rhapsody — Live in Budapest **5.00** Bee Gees: One Night Only. The band's greatest hits **7.10 FILM: Dinner for One (U, 1963)** Comedy starring Freddie Frinton and May Warden (b/w) **7.30** André Rieu: New Year's Eve in Vienna. **9.45** André Rieu: Christmas Down Under — Live from Sydney. A festive concert **12.00** Freddie Mercury: The Tribute Concert. The 1992 concert **1.50am** Kylie: Showgirl — The Greatest Hits Tour **4.00** U2 Experience: Live in Berlin **5.30** Discovering: U2

Sky Main Event

6.00am Premier League Years (AD) **8.00** The Greatest Solheim Cup **10.00** The Summer Of Stokes **11.00** Gary Neville's Soccerbox **1.00pm** The World Cup Through Their Eyes **3.00** Gary Neville's Soccerbox. Double bill **5.00** F1 2019 Season Review **6.00** The World Cup Through Their Eyes. Look back at England's victorious Cricket World Cup through the eyes of the players **8.00** Boxing's Best of 2019. A look back at some blockbuster bouts from across the year **10.00** Class of '92: Full Time. Following Salford City FC as it is transformed into a full-time club, beginning with uncertainty around the future of players, managers and volunteers affecting morale **11.00** Class of '92: Full Time. Following Salford City FC as it is transformed into a full-time club, and as results continue to disappoint, the dressing room division reaches boiling point **12.00** Class of 92. Double bill of the documentary **2.00am** Sky Sports News

Read how Netflix has changed our relationships with each other at the-tls.co.uk/TVdecade

TLS

BBC Four

7.00pm John Wilson Orchestra at BBC Proms. John Wilson's orchestra celebrates the music of one of the most famous film studios, Warner Brothers. Katie Derham presents **9.15** How Auld Lang Syne Took Over the World. Dougie Vipond examines how Robert Burns' 18th-century poem, traditionally sung around the world on New Year's Eve, became one of Scotland's best-known musical exports **10.15** Vic & Bob's Big Night Out. The return of the comedy series with Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, featuring sketches, songs and stunts, accompanied by a series of special guests (AD) **10.45** Vic & Bob's Big Night Out. Comedy series with Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, featuring a welcome return for Novelty Island and a special rendition of That's Magic (AD) **11.15** Vic & Bob's Big Night Out. Vic presents Bob with a striking new wig, before revealing his secret beat boxing skills. Plus, the return of the Man with the Stick (AD) **11.45** Vic & Bob's Big Night Out. Vic reveals his latest plastic surgery enhancement. Last in the series (AD) **12.15am-3.15** Detectorists (AD)

ITV3

6.00am The Royal (AD) **7.00 FILM: Carry On Girls (PG, 1973)** Comedy starring Sid James (AD) **8.45 FILM: Holiday on the Buses (PG, 1973)** Comedy starring Reg Varney (AD) **10.25 FILM: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (U, 1971)** A confectionery king gives five children a tour of his magical factory — where a terrible fate awaits those who misbehave. Musical fantasy starring Gene Wilder and Jack Albertson (AD) **12.25pm FILM: Carry On Again Doctor (PG, 1969)** Comedy starring Sid James (AD) **2.05 FILM: Carry On Up the Jungle (PG, 1970)** Comedy starring Sid James (AD) **3.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **8.00** Vera. The detective investigates when a mother of two is found dead in her suburban garden — but the case is made more complex when the victim's estranged family put in an appearance (3/4) (AD) **10.00** Vera. A teenage boy is found dead in a reservoir near a remote rural town (4/4) (AD) **12.00** A Touch of Frost (AD) **1.55am** Inspector Morse **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen

E4

6.00am Hollyoaks (AD) **7.30** Celebrity Christmas Come Dine with Me **8.00** How I Met Your Mother (AD) **9.00** Mike & Molly **10.00** The Big Bang Theory (AD) **11.00** The Goldbergs (AD) **12.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine (AD) **1.00pm** The Big Bang Theory: E4's Top 30 Countdown (AD) **5.00 FILM: How to Train Your Dragon (PG, 2010)** A clumsy Viking boy longs to slay a dragon, but ends up befriending one instead. Animated fantasy with the voices of Jay Baruchel and Gerard Butler (AD) **7.00** Hollyoaks. Nana McQueen urges Mercedes to start looking after herself (AD) **7.30** The Tiger Who Came to Tea (AD) **8.00** The Great Chrjstmas Bake Off. Noel Fielding and Sandi Toksvig host the first of two Christmas specials (AD) **9.20 FILM: The Inbetweeners Movie (15, 2011)** Comedy starring Joe Thomas (AD) **11.20** The Inbetweeners (AD) **11.50** The Inbetweeners (AD) **12.25am** The Inbetweeners (AD, SL) **2.35** What a F****** Year on TV with Mel B & Mel B **3.45** The Big Bang Theory (AD) **4.35** How I Met Your Mother (AD)

ITV4

6.00am The Protectors **6.25** The Saint **7.20** Kojak (SL) **8.15** Quincy ME **9.20** Minder (AD) **10.25** The Sweeney **11.30** The Professionals (AD) **12.35pm FILM: Columbo Undercover (PG, TVM, 1994)** Crime drama starring Peter Falk and Ed Begley Jr (AD) **2.35 FILM: Spartacus (PG, 1960)** Roman epic with Kirk Douglas, Laurence Olivier and Tony Curtis (AD) **6.25 FILM: The Sting (PG, 1973)** Two conmen plot to swindle a mobster out of his fortune in revenge for the murder of their friend. Depression-era comedy drama starring Robert Redford, Paul Newman and Robert Shaw **9.00 FILM: Under Siege 2: Dark Territory (18, 1995)** A Navy veteran on board a train battles hijackers who possess a weapon with the potential to trigger earthquakes. Action adventure sequel with Steven Seagal **11.10 FILM: Executive Decision (15, 1996)** Action thriller starring Kurt Russell (AD) **1.50** Speed Freaks **2.50** Football Genius. With fans of Arsenal and Liverpool **3.15** The Professionals (AD, SL) **4.10** ITV4 Nightscreen **4.15** Minder (AD, SL) **5.05** The Sweeney

More4

8.55am Come Dine with Me **11.40** Four in a Bed **2.15pm** Escape to the Château (AD) **5.30 FILM: The Longest Day (PG, 1962)** Fact-based Second World War drama starring Richard Burton (b/w) **9.00** Sarah Millican: Home Bird Live. Stand-up show recorded at Newcastle's Tyne Theatre & Opera House, in which the comedian shares insights into life, including the need to put down some roots now she has cats **10.05** Sarah Millican: Thoroughly Modern Millican Live. Stand-up performance, recorded at London's Hammersmith Apollo during the comedian's 2012 UK tour, featuring anecdotes on life's humdrum curiosities **11.10** Father Ted. The priest tries to give up cigarettes for Lent, inspired by a challenge from his opposite number over on Rugged Island. Comedy starring Dermot Morgan (AD) **11.40** Father Ted. Jack is hauled off to the local old priests' home and replaced by a younger man — who drives everyone crazy by playing jungle music for hours on end (AD) **12.15am** Father Ted (AD) **2.25** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **3.30-3.55** Father Ted (AD)

Dave

6.00am Teleshopping **7.25** Modern Wheels or Classic Steals **8.20** Red Bull Soapbox Race **9.20** Eddie Eats America **10.20** American Pickers: Best Of **12.20pm** Red Bull Soapbox Race **1.20** Gavin & Stacey (AD) **6.00** Red Bull Soapbox Race **7.00** Red Bull Soapbox Race 2016. Highlights of the offbeat event **8.00** Not Going Out. Lee and Lucy become addicted to a television box set **8.40** Not Going Out. The school lollipop man gets on the wrong side of Lee and Lucy **9.20** Not Going Out. Lucy considers having a boob job. Lee Mack and Sally Bretton star **10.00** Not Going Out Live. Special episode of Lee Mack's award-winning hit comedy **10.40** Would I Lie to You? With Rhod Gilbert, Sally Phillips, Des O'Connor and Tess Daly **11.20** Mock the Week. Topical comedy show with James Acaster, Angela Barnes, Kerry Godliman, Nish Kumar and Glenn Moore **12.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **1.00am** QI XL. With Jimmy Carr and Aisling Bea **2.15** Not Going Out **4.00** Teleshopping

Film4

11.00am The House of Magic (U, 2013) Animated adventure with the voice of Murray Blue **12.50pm Teen Wolf (PG, 1985)** Comedy starring Michael J Fox **2.40 Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (PG, 2007)** Sci-fi adventure sequel starring Ioan Gruffudd (AD) **4.40 Turner & Hooch (PG, 1989)** Family canine comedy starring Tom Hanks (AD) **6.45 The Huntsman: Winter's War (12, 2016)** Fantasy adventure (AD) **9.00 Deadpool (15, 2016)** A disfigured mercenary develops superhuman powers, which he uses to get payback on the man who ruined his life. Comedy adventure with Ryan Reynolds and Morena Baccarin (AD) **11.10 Idiocracy (15, 2006)** An average man ends up in the future, where the human race has grown so stupid that he is the most intelligent man in the world. Sci-fi comedy with Luke Wilson and Dax Shepard **12.50am-3.15 Die Hard 2 (18, 1990)** A lone cop battles terrorists who have taken over an airport to force the release of a convicted drug baron. Action thriller sequel starring Bruce Willis and Bonnie Bedelia (AD)

Drama

6.00am Teleshopping **7.10** The House of Eliott **8.00** Soldier, Soldier **9.00** The Bill **10.00** Classic Holby City **11.00** Classic Casualty **12.00** The Bill **1.00pm** Classic EastEnders. Double bill **2.20 Oliver Twist. Part one of two. Adaptation of Dickens' classic. *See Viewing Guide* (AD)** **6.15** Last of the Summer Wine **8.00** Father Brown. A man tries to prove a member of his family killed his father (AD) **9.00** Death in Paradise. Humphrey and Martha's romantic weekend on a remote island is cut short when a fellow hotel guest is stabbed to death in his room in what appears to be an attempted robbery (3/8) (AD) **10.15** New Tricks. The team members investigate the murder of a junior doctor, strangled in 2010, and try to cheer up Danny when his daughter Holly leaves home for university. Tamzin Outhwaite stars (2/10) (AD) **11.35** Taggart. First episode of the Glasgow-set crime drama. A murderer is on the loose, and one by one the bodies of young women are being found strangled across the city (1/3) **2.25am** New Tricks (AD) **4.00** Teleshopping

ITV2

6.00am I'm a Celebrity: Legends of the Jungle **6.50** The Boxer & The Ballroom Dancer (AD) **7.45** Emmerdale (AD) **8.15** Coronation Street (AD) **9.15** Catchphrase **9.55** I'm a Celebrity... Jungle Fever **10.55** Take Me Out 80s Special **11.55** Emmerdale (AD) **12.30pm** Coronation Street (AD) **1.30** Celebrity Catchphrase **2.30** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.55 FILM: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (PG, 2000)** Family comedy prequel starring Mark Addy (AD) **4.45 FILM: Space Jam (U, 1996)** Live action and animated comedy with Michael Jordan (AD) **6.25 FILM: Jurassic Park (PG, 1993)** Action adventure starring Sam Neill (AD) **9.00 FILM: Bridesmaids (15, 2011)** Comedy starring Kristen Wiig, Rose Byrne and Melissa McCarthy (AD) **11.35** Family Guy. Peter's past as a sperm donor catches up with him (AD) **12.00** Family Guy (AD) **12.30am** American Dad! (AD) **1.20** Celebrity Juice: Trapped and Alone **2.20 FILM: Trainwreck (15, 2015)** Comedy starring Amy Schumer (AD) **4.30** BGT:Top 10 Crown Jewels **5.20** The Planet's Funniest Animals **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

Yesterday

6.00am WW2 Price of Empire **8.00** Auschwitz: The Nazis and the Final Solution **11.00** The Blue Planet. Eight episodes (AD) **6.00pm** The Blue Planet. Examining marine life in coastal regions (AD) **7.00** Underground Worlds. The underground bases built by the German army during the occupation of Jersey, and a group of more than 20 underground cities in Turkey, one of which dates back to 800BC (7/10) **8.00** Abandoned Engineering. A formerly luxurious and strategic mountain-top villa on the island of Rhodes (7/12) (AD) **9.00** Bangers and Cash. Derek collects a Jaguar Mark 2 and explains why they made such poor getaway cars for 1960s bank robbers (7/10) **10.00** Secrets of the Railways. Examining railroads associated with mankind's ugliest deeds, beginning with the Trans-Pyrenees Railway (1/6) (AD) **11.00** Steam Train Britain (AD) **12.00** War Factories. America's "Liberty Ships" **1.00am** Royals on the Frontline (AD) **2.00** WW2 Price of Empire **3.00** Teleshopping

Variations

BBC One Scotland
As BBC One except: 7.00pm-7.30 Would I Lie to You? At Christmas (r) **8.00** River City (r) (AD) **9.00** Celebrity Mastermind **9.30** BBC News **9.45** Weather **9.50** Hogmanay 2019. Des Clarke joins the crowds getting ready for Hogmanay 2019 celebrations, and Susan Calman hosts a studio of stars looking ahead to The Bells as the midnight moment approaches **10.00** Selling Scotland. Jack Docherty takes an entertaining look at Scotland's most memorable adverts. Joining him on this archive journey will be some of Scotland's funniest and best known faces **11.00** Only an Excuse? Traditional helping of football comedy, with Jonathan Watson, Alex Norton, Joy McAvoy and Louise McCarthy, looking back at the last 12 months **11.30** Hogmanay 2019. Susan Calman, Des Clarke and Amy Irons celebrate the start of 2020 **12.30am** Kevin Bridges: The Brand New Tour (r) **1.30** The Graham Norton Show: New Year's Eve Show. *See Viewing Guide* **2.30** Weather for the Week Ahead **2.35-6.00** BBC News

BBC Two Wales
As BBC Two except: 6.00pm Epic: Party Like It's 1999 (r) **6.30-7.00** Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing (r) (AD)

STV
As ITV except: 10.45pm STV News Review **11.00** Hayman's Way (r) **11.30** Sean's Very Scottish Hogmanay. Sean Batty presents a traditional Hogmanay celebration from Craufurdland Castle in Ayrshire, featuring fireworks, ceilidh dancing and music from Dougie MacLean and Mairi Campbell **12.20am** Alan Carr's Celebrity Re-Play 2019 (r) (AD) **1.10** FILM: Uncle Buck (1989) (AD) **2.45-6.00** ITV Nightscreen

BBC Scotland
2.10pm-7.00 As BBC Two **7.00pm** The Seven **7.15** Rewind 1990s (r) **7.30** Emeli Sande's Street Symphony (r) **8.30** Roaming in the Wild (r) (AD) **9.00** Susan Calman's Not Quite End of the Year Show. The comedian looks back over 2019 **9.30** Still Game (r) (AD) **10.00** Jim Smith Live from Perth **11.00** The State of It (r) **11.30-12.30am** Hogmanay 2019

BBC Alba
7.00am Alba Today **5.00pm** Te Bheag a' Ghruffalo (The Gruffalo's Child) (r) **5.25** Radan an Rathaid Mhoir (The Highway Rat) (r) **5.55** Stòiridh (r) **6.00** Run: Private Pet (r) **6.20** An Rud As Fheàrr Leam **6.25** Balach aig a' Mhullach (Boy at the Summit) (r) **6.50** Am Balach anns a' Bhuilgean (Boy in the Bubble) (r) **7.00** An Là (News) **7.05** Mod nan Coisirean 2019 (r) **8.30** Two Go to Tolsta: Sgeulachd Syd Agus Millie **9.00** Moulin Rouge Ecosse **10.00** Oidhche Challainn le Robert Robertson **11.00** FUNC **11.30** Live Ceilidh na Bliadhn' Ùire 2019 **1.30am-7.00** Alba Today

S4C
6.00am Cyw: Sblij a Sbloj (r) **6.10** Y Brodyr Coala (r) **6.25** Bach a Mawr (r) **6.35** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **6.45** Dwylo'r Enfys (r) **7.00** Blociau Rhif **7.05** Meic y Marchog (r) **7.20** Antur Natur Cyw (r) **7.35** Deian a Loli **7.50** Sion y Chef **8.00** Peppa (r) **8.05** Hafod Haul (r) **8.20** Y Dywysoges Fach (r) **8.30** Darllen 'Da Fi (r) **8.40** Gwdihw (r) **8.55** Guto Gwningen (r) **9.20** Rapsgaliwn (r) **9.35** Cymylaubychain (r) **9.45** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **10.00** Ty Mel (r) **10.10** Hafod Haul (r) **10.25** Sam Tân (r) **10.35** Twm Tisian (r) **10.45** Cacamwnci (r) **11.00** Sam Tân **12.00** News S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Cymoedd Roy Noble (r) **12.30** Helo Syrjeri (r) **1.00** Noson Lawen (r) **2.00** Prynhawn Da **2.05** Rygbi Cymru 2019: Y Gamp Lawn a Siapan (r) **3.00** Gwesty Aduniad (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Twm Tisian (r) **4.10** Awr Fawr: Sam Tân (r) **4.20** Awr Fawr: Cacamwnci (r) **4.35** Awr Fawr: Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **4.50** Awr Fawr: Sion y Chef (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Larfa (r) **5.05** Stwnsh: Boom! (r) **5.20** Stwnsh: Bernard (r) **5.25** Stwnsh: Arthur a Chriw y Ford Gron (r) **5.35** Stwnsh: Y Gemau Gwyllt (r) **6.00** News S4C a'r Tywydd **6.05** Codi Pac (r) **6.30** Rownd a Rownd. Dylan is confused about what to do about Sophie, so turns to Rhys for some words of wisdom (AD) **7.00** 3 Lle (r) (AD) **7.30** Pobol y Cwm (AD) **8.00** Cefn Gwlad (AD) **9.00** Ffrindiau Ffôn ar Wyliau (r) **10.00** Hyd y Pwys Mawr (r) **10.30-12.10am** Heno

MindGames

Tetonor Easy No 9

22	272	57	154
49	30	224	19
60	104	25	14
288	41	39	42

	4	4	7	7	7	8	9			15		26	32	32	34

When complete, the strip below the grid can be split into eight pairs of numbers. Adding the numbers in a pair gives one of the 16 numbers in the grid. Multiplying them gives a different number in the grid. For example, a 4 and 6 in the strip could be paired to make 10 (4+6) and 24 (4x6) in the grid. Enter each sum below the corresponding number in the grid. The blanks in the strip must be deduced, bearing in mind the numbers are listed in ascending order.

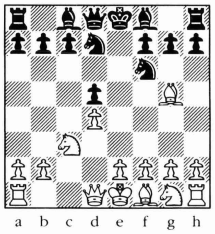
Solution tomorrow. The next Tetonor puzzle will appear on Thursday

New Year's Day Jumbo crossword

For an extra challenge, take on our bank holiday prize puzzle

Tomorrow in times2

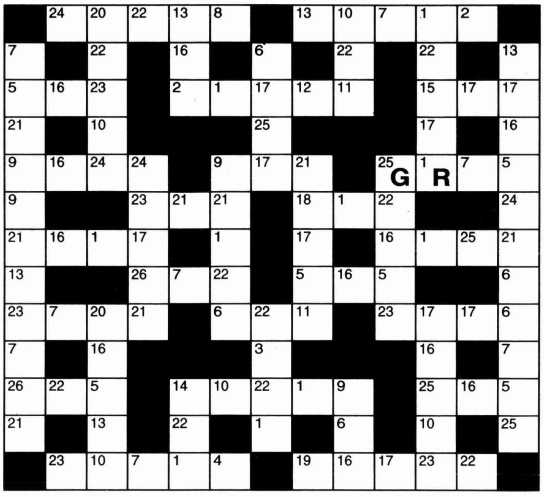
Winning Move



White to play.
This position is an opening line in the Queen's Gambit Declined.

In September, Tony Blair warned Jeremy Corbyn that agreeing to a general election would be falling into an "elephant trap". There is a so-called "elephant trap" in chess. In the diagram position, any lumbering beast handling the white pieces who chooses to play 1 Nxd5 would quickly find themselves stuck in a deep hole. Can you see why?

Codeword No 3846



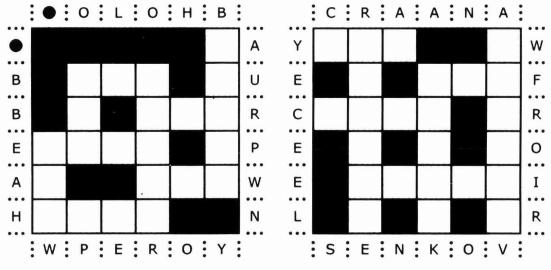
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1 R	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25 G	26

Every letter in this crossword-style grid has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Yesterday's solution, right*

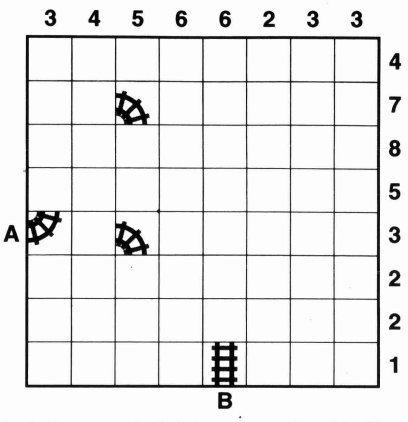
Clueline: **Stuck on Codeword?** To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 84901. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

Lexica No 5113 No 5114



Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

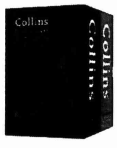
Train Tracks No 907



Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

Win a Dictionary & Thesaurus

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6



			1		
2				3	
	4		5	6	
	6	2		4	
	3				4
		4			

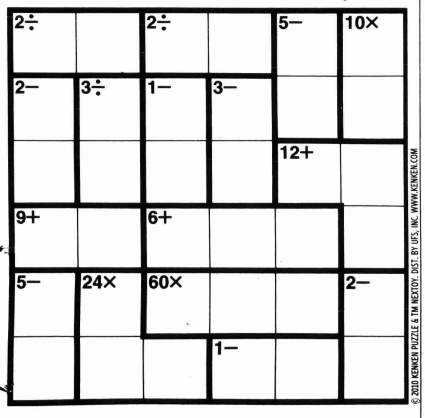
Winners will receive a *Collins English Dictionary & Thesaurus*

Solve the puzzle and text in the numbers in the three shaded boxes. Text TIMES followed by a space, then your three numbers, eg, TIMES 123, plus your name, address and postcode to 84901 (UK only), by midnight. Or enter by phone. Call 09012 925274 (ROI 1516 303 501) by midnight. Leave your three answer numbers (in any order) and your contact details.

Calls cost £1 (ROI €1.50) plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. Winners will be picked at random from all correct answers received. One draw per week. Lines close at midnight tonight. If you call or text after this time you will not be entered but will still be charged. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

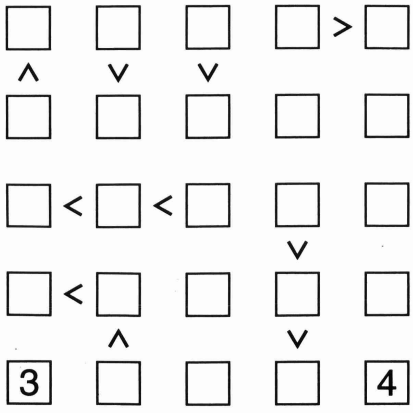
What are your favourite puzzles in MindGames?
Email: puzzles@thetimes.co.uk

KenKen Medium No 4838



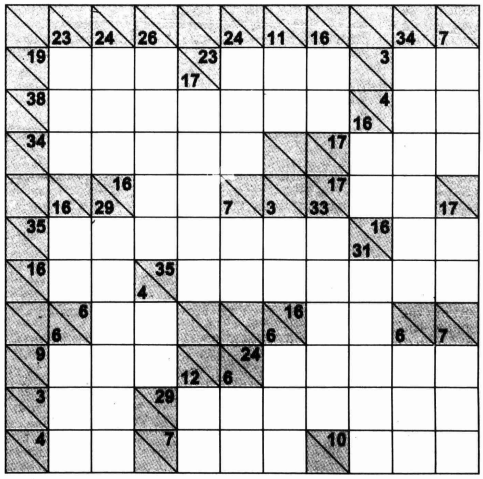
All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Futoshiki No 3597



Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

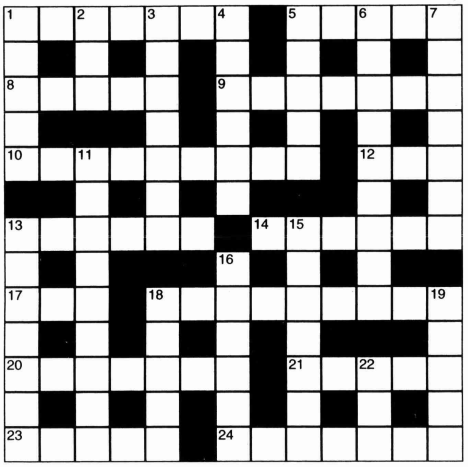
Kakuro No 2556



Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

MindGames

times2 Crossword No 8162



Across

1 Single eyeglass (7)
5 Frogs' eggs (5)
8 Letter such as i or u (5)
9 Make harder to undo (7)
10 Unexpected revelation (3-6)
12 Unwell (3)
13 Native of Brittany (6)
14 Edible crustacean (6)
17 Large; generous (3)
18 Impertinence, levity (9)
20 Like the Devil (7)
21 Greek letter (5)
23 Showing poor taste; sticky (5)
24 Very serious (7)

Down

1 Film (5)
2 Seen for the first time (3)
3 West Indian song (7)
4 Make longer (6)
5 Sweetener (5)
6 Process of wearing down (9)
7 Preventing sliding (7)
11 Lively, dynamic (9)
13 Look after young children (4-3)
15 Very trendy person (7)
16 Ring (6)
18 Highly-decorated; whim (5)
19 Fermenting agent (5)
22 Day before a festival (3)

Solution to Crossword 8161

			A	C	M	A	T					
	M	A	R	S	H	M	A	L	L	O	W	S
		A	M	I	N	L	E					
C	L	E	A	N	S		I	D	Y	L	L	S
	T	M	E	A			V					
L	A	T	E		L	E	C	T	U	R	E	R
		N					N					
S	A	L	T	F	L	A	T		D	E	L	I
	M			O		O	E		U			
F	E	R	R	I	C		B	E	R	A	T	E
	N		E	A		A	D		E			
A	D	V	A	N	T	A	G	E	O	U	S	
	S		L	E		O	G					

Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Bridge Andrew Robson

The 2019 English Premier League was won by Janet De Botton's team. It was a very narrow victory. Artur Malinowski needed to pick up this diamond suit on the very last deal for De Botton to win.

Dummy
West ♦AK75 East

Declarer
♦J863

Declarer led to dummy's ace and the nine fell from East. Did East hold ten-nine doubleton — in which case declarer needed to return to hand to run the jack? Or did he hold queen-nine doubleton — in which case he needed to cash the king?

There were two reasons to play the king next. First, East may have played the ten from ten-nine doubleton but would always have played the nine from queen-nine doubleton (the Principle of Restricted Choice). Second, East may have false-carded with the nine from ten-nine-small, and the queen may be about to fall — on the other side of the table.

Malinowski duly played the king — and East did indeed hold queen-nine doubleton. Game made.

On today's deal from the Premier League, both Souths who attempted 6♠ went down, although those who had stopped in game made 12 tricks. Can you see how 6♠ was defeated?

West summoned up the courage to lead the two of diamonds, away from his ace-queen. East won the king and was not hard-pressed to work out why his partner had underled his diamond honours. He switched to a club — ruffed by West. One down.

The only makeable slam is 6♣ — despite the 5-0 trump split. Say West leads ace and another diamond. You ruff in dummy and lead and pass the ten of clubs (without first cashing the ace), West discarding. You cash three rounds of spades and four rounds of hearts, leaving both you and East with four clubs. You lead a non-club from dummy, overruffing East cheaply. At trick 11, you cross to the bare ace of clubs, whereupon you hold the king-jack of clubs over East's queen-small. Twelve tricks made — in your dreams.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

Dealer: West, Vulnerability: North-South

Teams

	♠K876 ♥AKQJ5 ♦J ♣A107	
♠J9 ♥10983 ♦AQ98762 ♣-	N W E S	♠532 ♥642 ♦K10 ♣Q8632
	♠AQ104 ♥7 ♦543 ♣KJ954	

S	W	N	E
	4♦(1)	Dbl(2)	5♦(3)
5NT(4)	Pass	6♥	Pass
6♠	End		

(1) With an eye on the favourable vulnerability. And, after all, "Seven-four, bid more."
(2) Take-out, even at this high level.
(3) Defenceless, so piling on more pressure.
(4) Pick a slam, South creating the choice between 6♣ (which he would pass); or 6♠ (which he would bid over 6♥).

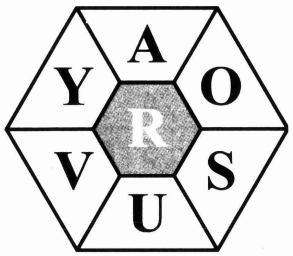
Contract: 6♠, Opening Lead: ♦?

Brain Trainer

EASY	12	x4	+2	÷5	x6	DOUBLE IT	÷4	+6	÷4	DOUBLE IT
MEDIUM	44	+¼ OF IT	+18	DOUBLE IT	x3	+4	DOUBLE IT	+7	−⅔ OF IT	−4
HARDER	202	DOUBLE IT	+24	x2	−⅞ OF IT	−2	÷5	÷7	CUBE IT	SQUARE IT

ANSWER

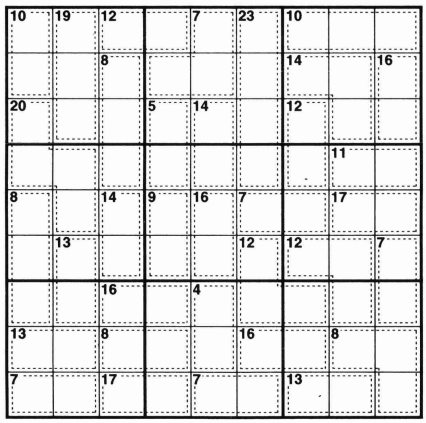
Polygon



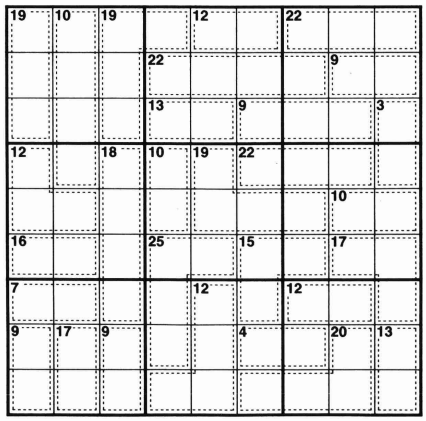
From these letters, make words of **three** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.
How you rate 8 words, average; 11, good; 17, very good; 23, excellent

Yesterday's answers
act, cat, chat, cheat, **cheetah**, eat, echt, eta, etch, eth, hat, hatch, hate, heat, heath, tach, tache, tea, teach, tec, tech, tee, the, theca, thee

Killer Moderate No 6941



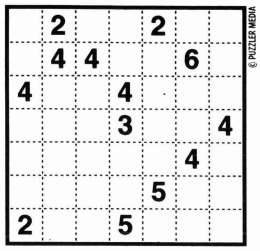
Killer Tough No 6942



As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

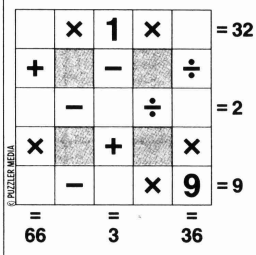
Cluelines **Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen?** Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Cell Blocks No 3729



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

Set Square No 2559



Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

Solutions

Quick Cryptic 1515

J	A	U	N	T	Y			Z	I	N	C	
A	N	A	R		P		P	N	E			
N	U	T	C	A	S	E		E	A	S	E	L
I		I	N		E	R		U		I		
T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	S		L	E	A
O			M			E		A				
R	U	S	T	I	C		O	V	E	R	D	O
		H		S			E			U		
A	L	I		S	P	E	A	R	M	I	N	T
W		N		I		N		A		N		R
A	G	G	R	O		V	A	N	I	L	L	A
R		L		N		Y		C		E		G
D	Y	E	R				S	E	T	T	L	E

Codeword 3845

S		S		G		U		U		E		
F	I	X	T	U	R	E	S		N	U	M	B
	G		R		I		E		I		B	
C	H	O	I	C	E		S	E	Q	U	E	L
		N		V			U		Z			
P	L	A	G	U	E	D		S	E	I	Z	E
	I		D		O			L				
A	F	O	O	T		Q	U	A	R	R	E	L
	E		B			T		A				
A	B	A	T	E	D		S	T	R	U	C	K
	O		U		U		T	E		O		
J	A	M	S		S	W	A	N	S	O	N	G
	T		E		K		Y		T	E		

Kakuro 2555

		3	1			1	3	8	9
8	5	9	3	7		2	1	9	7
9	1	7	2	3	5			6	8
1	2	4			6	9	8	7	5
6	3			6	8	7	9		
		1	3	2	4			3	5
3	5	2	1	4			2	1	3
4	2			5	3	6	4	2	1
1	3	2	5		1	8	9	4	6
2	1	4	3			9	7		

Sudoku 11,225

1	6	7	4	5	9	8	3	2
9	2	8	1	3	7	4	5	6
4	3	5	8	6	2	7	9	1
8	7	6	9	1	3	5	2	4
2	4	1	7	8	5	9	6	3
5	9	3	2	4	6	1	8	7
7	5	2	6	9	4	3	1	8
3	8	4	5	2	1	6	7	9
6	1	9	3	7	8	2	4	5

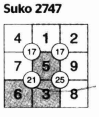
Quintagram

1 Cosy
2 Break
3 Trolley
4 Clipper
5 Teasingly

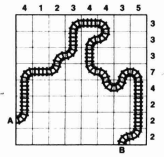
Brain Trainer

Easy 18; Medium 293; Harder 729

Suko 2747



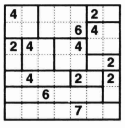
Train Tracks 906



Sudoku 11,226

2	4	7	3	8	1	6	9	5
5	3	1	6	7	9	2	8	4
9	8	6	2	5	4	1	7	3
3	9	2	4	1	7	5	6	8
6	1	4	5	3	8	9	2	7
8	7	5	9	2	6	4	3	1
4	2	8	7	9	5	3	1	6
7	6	9	1	4	3	8	5	2
1	5	3	8	6	2	7	4	9

Cell Blocks 3728



Set Square 2558

5	×	3	−	8
+		+		×
6	+	7	−	1
×		−		×
4	+	2	×	9

Lexica 5111

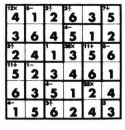
Sudoku 11,227

1	6	5	3	2	9	4	7	8
8	2	4	5	7	6	3	1	9
3	9	7	8	1	4	6	2	5
6	7	9	2	3	1	5	8	4
5	4	1	7	9	8	2	6	3
2	8	3	4	6	5	7	9	1
9	3	8	6	5	2	1	4	7
4	5	6	1	8	7	9	3	2
7	1	2	9	4	3	8	5	6

Futoshiki 3596

3	5	2	1	4
4	1	5	3	2
1	2	4	5	3
2	3	1	4	5
5	4	3	2	1

KenKen 4837



Lexica 5112

Killer 6939

9	7	4	8	3	1	5	2	6
8	1	2	7	5	6	9	4	3
6	3	5	4	9	2	8	7	1
3	8	7	5	1	9	2	6	4
4	2	9	6	7	8	1	3	5
1	5	6	2	4	3	7	8	9
5	6	3	9	2	7	4	1	8
7	4	8	1	6	5	3	9	2
2	9	1	3	8	4	6	5	7

Chess — Winning Move

1 Nxd5 apparently exploits the pin on the h4-d8 diagonal. However, Black responds 1 ... Nxd5! 2 Bxd8 Bb4+ 3 Qd2 Bxd2+ 4 Kxd2 Kxd8 and emerges a piece ahead. Instead of 1 Nxd5, 1 Nf3 and 1 e3 lead to standard variations

Word watch

Biffins (c) Cakes baked from squashed apples
Bender (a) A sixpence
Boned (b) Stolen (Charles Dickens)

Killer 6940

8	2	1	9	6	4	7	5	3
5	4	9	7	3	2	1	6	8
6	7	3	8	1	5	2	9	4
9	8	2	6	5	7	4	3	1
4	5	6	1	2	3	9	8	7
1	3	7	4	8	9	6	2	5
7	1	5	3	9	6	8	4	2
2	6	8	5	4	1	3	7	9
3	9	4	2	7	8	5	1	6

Quiz

1 Iris Murdoch 2 *Asterix* 3 *Every Breath You Take* 4 Polaroid 5 *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp* 6 Odeon 7 Benjamin Franklin 8 Thyroid gland 9 Queensland 10 William Blake 11 Tesla 12 Daniel Buren 13 Gale Sayers 14 Bjarne Riis — in 1996 15 Enzo Ferrari

THE TIMES

31.12.19

MindGames

Word watch
Josephine Balmer

Biffins
a Brilliant!
b A full glass
c Cakes

Bender
a A sixpence
b An acrobat
c To make a complaint

Boned
a A dance move
b Stolen
c Drunk

Answers on page 11

Sudoku

Mild No 11,228

9							4	7
		7			2	9	8	
			1					
	8			1		7		5
			3	6	9			
4		6		5			1	
					3			
	9	4	8			6		
5	7							4

Difficult No 11,229

						2	5	
			8	2				9
4				6	9		8	
	1		9	3	5		7	
	7		2	4	1		6	
8				5	4		3	
			3	9				4
						7	2	

Super fiendish No 11,230

					2	6		
	5			3				
3		1		7				2
	3		5		4			1
	4	8				2	6	
		6			8			
	6		7	8		1		
		3		4	6		7	
						4		

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

The Times Daily Quiz
Olav Bjortomt

TIMES NEWSPAPERS LTD

1 John Bayley wrote the 1998 memoir *Elegy for Iris* about his marriage to which fellow writer?

2 Confoundtheirpolitix, Justforkix and Cacofonix are Gauls in which comic series?

3 Puff Daddy's chart-topper *I'll Be Missing You* sampled which No 1 song by the Police?

4 In 1937, Edwin H Land founded which company to exploit the use of a polarising polymer of the same name?

5 The title of which 1943 Powell and Pressburger film features the name of a character by the cartoonist David Low?

6 The first cinema in which chain was opened by Oscar Deutsch in 1928 in Brierley Hill, Staffordshire?

7 Apparently based on a bust by Houdon, the profile of which Founding Father features on Pulitzer prize medals?

8 Hashimoto's disease involves the gradual destruction of which endocrine gland in the neck?

9 Rockhampton, Gladstone and Surfers Paradise are places in which Australian state?

10 In *Auguries of Innocence*, who wrote: "To see a World in a Grain of Sand/And a Heaven in a Wild Flower"?

11 Which US company is developing the all-electric battery-powered Cybertruck?

12 The installation *Les Portes* (1985) features which French artist's characteristic stripes?

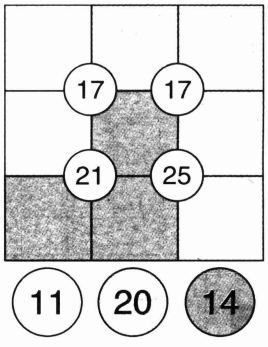
13 Which Chicago Bears halfback was played by Billy Dee Williams in the 1971 TV film *Brian's Song*?

14 Who is the only Danish overall winner of the Tour de France?

15 Which Italian racing driver and entrepreneur is pictured?

Answers on page 11

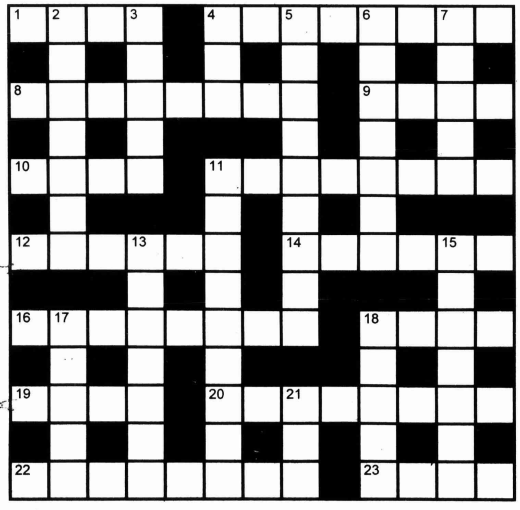
Suko
No 2747



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.co.uk

The Times Quick Cryptic
No 1516 by Breadman



Across
1 Part of sign attracts small fly (4)
4 Red wine to remain in vehicle with fishing gear (8)
8 Exchanging spades somewhere in East London (8)
9 Closely examine second container (4)
10 Interrogate unknown after pound endlessly (4)
11 Shirt and tie restyled — in this decade? (8)
12 Seafood Roy's arranged around empty table (6)
14 Concert exercises performed at once (6)
16 Left depressed with ale passed around, one cries (8)
18 Jack at home with cross, that brings bad luck (4)
19 Travel by bike, first half desert (4)
20 Vet fails disastrously to make celebration (8)
22 Beverage: a tin each is drunk (5,3)
23 Neat edge on front of topiary (4)

Down
2 Racecourse regenerated Lancashire town (7)
3 A zealot initially going after finest gemstone (5)
4 Clubs welcome letter from Greece (3)
5 Roller-coaster, British one, gripped frantically (3,6)
6 Italian dish gentleman knocked up with essential oil (7)
7 Delete Times puzzle finally (5)
11 Had a fling with a female — it became very heated (5,1,3)
13 Large number recalled reportedly sharp fantasy author (7)
15 Wordplay something injected by this writer from the Indian subcontinent (7)
17 Age English horse and policeman retired (5)
18 Mite eats one's supporting beam (5)
21 Health resort son has joined annually (3)

Yesterday's solution on page 11

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